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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Russian strategy on land has not had the justification of success. General Stackelberg with about 25,000 men had advanced south down the line to Port Arthur and came in touch with a Japanese force about half-way between Kaiping and Port Adams. According to his own truncated account he made preparations for attacking and outflanking the Japanese right wing when his own right was attacked on the same principle. It may be inferred that he was outnumbered in men and artillery. After a vigorous fight in which he was on the defensive he was compelled to retreat in three divisions with the loss of 500 killed and wounded, 300 prisoners and fourteen guns. It is difficult to understand how General Kuropatkin could have permitted the advance of such a small force with its flank and line of retreat threatened by General Kuroki's army. Probably General Stackelberg exceeded orders encouraged by an ignorance of the size of the force opposed to him, which he described as reinforced during the night. We have no account of the composition of the Japanese force, which does not appear to be a part of General Oku's army. The battle is perhaps another instance of the immense value in secrecy and despatch which belongs to an army backed by a navy in command of the sea. Troops may be landed anywhere without a previous hint of their presence. The islands off the Liao-Tung Peninsula give in this case a great additional advantage.

The "great naval battle now in progress off the coast of Japan", which every evening paper announced on Wednesday, has after all a small justification in fact. Admiral Skrydloff made a successful sortie from Vladivostok and cut off several Japanese transports in the straits of Korea. According to the official account the Hitachi Maru was sunk, the Sado Maru torpedoed but not sunk, and five or six hundred survivors have somehow or other reached land. The fate of a third transport is unknown; and the number of men on board is still conjectural, though it is reported that the ships were loaded chiefly with stores and horses and that not more than 400 troops were on board any one ship.

Admiral Skrydloff deserves the success of his courage, but strategically the policy of such sorties has nothing to say for it. Only the chance of fog makes it possible for him to escape and avoid the probability of destruction by Admiral Kamimura's squadron. The Japanese cruisers would have no difficulty in coming up with the three slower cruisers of the Vladivostok squadron; the quality of the coal used makes them in ordinary conditions visible even before the hulls top the horizon and the want of coaling-stations compels a return to their base. The raiding of so weak a force can have little final effect on the campaign; on the other hand if Admiral Skrydloff made out to the Pacific his squadron might ultimately be of decisive value to the Baltic fleet. This plan has the more to recommend it now that the entrance to Port Arthur is cleared, as would appear to be proved by the recent appearance reported by Admiral Togo of the Novik and ten destroyers outside the harbour.

General Bobrikoff, the Governor General of Finland, was shot on Wednesday as he was entering the senate by a young man, the son of a Senator Shaumann. Immediately after firing a third shot, Shaumann with a fourth killed himself. General Bobrikoff who was wounded in the stomach and neck died on Thursday night. He had been Governor General since 1898 when he went to Helsingfors to carry out the new Russian policy in Finland. There can be no doubt this was a political murder. Apart from the moral brutality of crimes of this nature, they are very bad policy. The Finns now can only expect even more rigorous treatment than they have received lately. People who resort to murder as a political weapon must take the consequences, entirely irrespective of the nature of their cause. If they suffer severely, they are not entitled to sympathy. We notice that a portion of the English press, which was and is the most indignant at Irish political crime, is doing its best to excuse this murder. If the victim is a Russian, apparently even assassination can be tolerated.

If the Sultan of Morocco has prepared the way for the release of the captives by acceding to most of Raisuli's demands, he has done nothing to make similar captures less easy. During the week a bold attempt was made by a few horsemen to seize the Italian Consul whose house was about a mile from the town. The failure of the attempt seems to have been due chiefly to accident, certainly not to the effective policing of the district; and until France considers herself to have a hand free

enough either to back the Sultan or to do the thing herself there is no particular reason why Raisuli or any other enterprising brigand should not make a satisfactory annual income by the exercise of his profession. At present the only effective protection of the inhabitants of Tangier is a small collection of American vessels in the harbour; but even the absence of a Monroe doctrine in the Mediterranean will hardly allow of finding a permanent solution of the difficulty in American marines. We may hope that the liberation of the captives is nearer, but the one immediate effect of the Sultan's surrenders is a new crop of yet more audacious demands from Raisuli. They include the deposal of a number of sheiks loyal to the Sultan.

The agitation for the reform of the railways in South Africa has been unhappily associated with personalities. It had become necessary that the old railway commission should be remodelled; and a minority of the commission appointed for this purpose desired as a preliminary the retirement of Sir Percy Girouard. Lord Milner, who indirectly has accepted the retirement, spoke a very vigorous eulogy of his work. He made a reputation very quickly and did quite invaluable work as an organiser of traffic during the war. Since his appointment to the management of the railways he has shown similar energy and at least succeeded in producing a workable system. His power and responsibility were excessive; but the loud agitation especially in Johannesburg against his position would have been as effective without the personal acerbity. As a way of evading the difficulty and escaping the implication of personal blame it was agreed to alter the Railway Commission and to give over the financial control, which had been the most open to criticism, to an auditor and treasurer responsible to the council, leaving the supreme power with the Comptroller of Intercolonial Finance. Lord Milner agreed to take on his own hands the initial work of devising a new scheme of organisation.

The best news from India is that the monsoon has broken at Bombay. It has begun in good time and the conditions are favourable for its steady development, on which the prosperity of the country depends. The cycle of deficient rainfall and consequent scarcity seems happily to have been succeeded by a period of normal atmospheric conditions. Except at the one point Lord Curzon has left a tranquil inheritance. The difficulties with Tibet do not seem to have affected the western borders where Tibet marches with Kumaon or with Kashmir and other protected States. This circumstance indicates both the indifference of the Tibetan population and also the lax and unorganised character of the Lamaist government at Lhasa. Further west all is quiet on and across the border. The Amir sustained recently a severe injury to his hand from the bursting of a gun; and under the treatment of a native "hakimo" it became so serious that he asked for the services of an English physician. The Viceroy promptly sent his own staff surgeon, Major Bird, who arrived just in time to avert an imminent danger to the life of the Amir. Surgeons in India have played an important part in establishing good relations with native rulers since Boughton in 1645 obtained for the Company the right of free trade in Bengal as a fee for services in the Court of Shah Jahan.

The larger issue created by the dismissal of Lord Dundonald we discuss elsewhere. There is one event connected with it which every one with any imperial patriotism will deeply regret. We should think that Mr. Fisher himself will be of the number, though a personal pride in his tactful attitude to French-Canadian opinion as well as his official position will prevent a confession. Sir Wilfred Laurier called Lord Dundonald a "foreigner". The word was the worse for being rather instinctive than reasoned and his correction of it to "stranger", which has little real difference of meaning, helped to emphasise his attitude of mind. Mr. Bourrassa, who is looked upon as Sir Wilfred Laurier's successor to the leadership of French-Canadian sentiment, would definitely accept the implication in the word. It has been hoped by the English colleagues of Sir Wilfred Laurier that he would help to correct the separatist tendency in

his ablest follower; but the dropping of this unhappy phrase appears to strip Sir Wilfred Laurier of any appearance of patriotic conviction. He is not a man who is clumsy with the use of words.

The admirable common sense of the document, in which the King of Italy has summed up his judgment on the boundary of British Guiana, should help the cause of arbitration. The heads of his argument touch many questions of interest and importance in the history of the region and in the science of international law, but it is in the sequel to the argument that the direct good sense of the judgment appears. Considering the questions of priority of claim to small sections of territory to be inextricable he decides that in the circumstances, as some line of frontier has to be fixed, it is best to follow the broader hint of nature. The hint is given by the rivers; and the future frontier between Brazil and British Guiana will follow the watershed from the Yakontipu mountain along the source of the Ireng and the Tacutu. The dividing river shall be open to free navigation and where the rivers divide, the frontier will follow the Thalweg of the most easterly branch. The boundary is almost identical with that proposed to Brazil by Lord Salisbury in 1891, another mark of the great common sense and judgment he brought to bear on even the smaller details of foreign policy.

The cut-throat politics of the Shipping Trust adopted to deprive the Cunard line of the carrying of steerage passengers has had some curious results. The offer of a £2 rate across the Atlantic has gathered to Waterloo Station every other undesirable in London; and the sight of the crowds, many rich enough to show handfuls of gold, but almost all terribly unclean, is now being repeated on the islands off New York where emigrants are dumped. The emigration officers have had more than they can do but it will be pleasing to the Cunard Company to know that the vessels which brought them will have to carry back—the return journey included in the £2—an unusually large proportion of these unpleasant persons. We have every belief that the Cunard will in the sequel not suffer from this gross underselling. It would be interesting to know how these people were fed on board.

A disaster terrible, in its details as in extent, occurred on Wednesday on one of the excursion steamers so popular round New York. The vessel, General Slocum, when in such a position between the rocks of the East River that it could not be turned caught fire and the captain found the only alternative left him was to run at full speed for an island a mile away. The Sunday school excursion consisted principally of children and the whole company were as many as 1600. The boats as well as all the apparatus for dealing with fire or saving life seem to have been wholly useless. As the ship was running for the island through a channel very difficult of navigation at the best the flames spread rapidly, the hurricane deck fell in, a number of people were precipitated on the crowds on the lower deck; and as soon as the ship was beached there was an explosion. As many as 1000, a large proportion of them children, lost their lives. The crew of the vessel seem to have behaved with courage and decision, but the position of the vessel between the Hell Gate rocks and the intense rapidity of the spread of the fire made the disaster inevitable from the moment the flames got hold. The responsibility for the cause of the fire and the uselessness of the tackle has not yet been fixed.

The American Rifle Association has decided unanimously to send back the Palma trophy which they won at Bisley last year. The very deliberate use of a rifle not coming under the definition of a service rifle produced an unpleasant notion of the interpretation by Americans of what is meant by "playing the game". The rifle it is confessed was not a service rifle and was not officially handed in for inspection. In the motion for the return of the trophy only the technical point is mentioned. Perhaps a fuller apology was not to be expected, but the "Palma qui meruit" sentiment might have been suggested to them by the very name of the trophy.

Lord Rosebery, addressing the Liberal Imperialists of his League, should have enjoyed the offence which he was giving to the other section of the Liberal party. Old-fashioned Liberals have never made attempts to conceal their dislike of Lord Rosebery and his ways of speech;—his action has never troubled them much—and in spite of the easy tolerance of the manner his rejection of Home Rule was phrased as if with the object of repaying the sentiment. By way of showing the impracticability of Home Rule as a Liberal doctrine he took piecemeal with a manifest enjoyment in the analysis the contradictions of creed which in the next Parliament would make the relations of Liberals and Irishmen a perpetual bickering. But his gibe will be a more lasting irritant than his analysis, both to Irishmen and that "section of the Opposition" whose diversity he emphasised. Home Rule, he said, was "chiefly used for theatrical purposes". The coup de théâtre is not properly applied either to extreme Radicals or many Irishmen; but so long as Lord Rosebery takes a part in politics the phrase will be remembered against him and will keep the sections of the Opposition sectarian.

The recommendations of the committee, who have been considering the duties of the Board of Trade and the Local Government Board, are capable of being represented as a simple plea for larger official salaries and new titles. They are of course much more. The President of the Board of Trade is not recommended to a salary of £5000 because his new title is the Minister of Commerce and Industry, but because his department is to be recognised as of greater imperial concern: the salaries are a measure of the men to be appointed. If the recommendations are to be of any good, they must involve the remodelling of the organisation and duties of the department in accordance with the new perception of the scope of imperial commerce. A very busy and organised section in the House of Commons has been agitating for several years for a ministry of commerce; but the necessity of change is not less because the organisers of the movement have not been the most responsible people in the world. The debate on the recommendations was both vague and prejudiced. Mr. Sinclair's motion that success as a merchant should be the chief qualification for the Presidency of the new Board of Trade is ludicrous, but on the other hand it is useless to deny that the definition of the Board of Trade is not wide enough, and that the starving of the Consular service has done more than most things to hamper the chances of British commerce.

The Borstal Association, which owes its origin to the private influence of Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, Chairman of the Prison Commission, is about to extend the sphere of its useful operations. Since 1902 when juvenile-adults—prisoners aged from sixteen to twenty-one—were classified for special treatment at the old convict prison at Borstal near Chatham, an After-Care Association has undertaken the benevolent duty of looking after the lads discharged. Without it the Borstal scheme of prison treatment would be practically valueless. The combination of effort is a most effective means of preventing those who are almost born to be criminals from fulfilling their unhappy destiny. So far the success is striking; but as the Borstal scheme is extended by the State the Borstal Association must keep pace with it, and it needs further resources for the maintenance until employment is found, for providing tools, for assisting emigration and so on, of the greater number of discharged youths who will come into its hands. Employers of labour, shipping agents, colonial agents &c. might help by becoming honorary members of the Association; and all who feel interested in an admirable work may obtain information from Mr. Haldane Porter, 2 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, the honorary secretary.

At the Mansion House on Monday Mr. Arnold Forster made an important acknowledgment of the duty of Government to the discharged soldiers; and we may hope that he will justify his rather shadowy expectation of being able to persuade Parliament of a method by which the nation shall take proper responsibility. Too

often Government is preserved from doing its essential work by the energy of private enterprise. The association, for which Mr. Arnold Forster was speaking, has done quite remarkable work. In the last nine months it has found work for 11,000 discharged soldiers and apart from the statistics of success it has advertised with much effect the incumbency of this national duty, and has dissipated the degrading idea that the old soldier is a term of reproach. The association is semi-official to the extent of receiving encouragement and a grant of £1500 from the Government. But the sum and moral support are meagre in relation to the work done. Until we get some form of universal service, it is a first obligation on any Government to see that soldiers who leave the army with good characters are enabled to use the capacity which the army training has developed in decent citizen work.

As a good deal has been heard from dramatic critics and others about Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton's play "Warp and Woof" being exaggerated, not true to life, and so on, we may mention an easier test than is usually available in similar cases. At York Mansion, York Street, Westminster, are two Societies, the Industrial Law Committee and the Industrial Law Indemnity Fund managed by a number of ladies of whom Mrs. Lyttelton is one and the Colonial Secretary the honorary legal adviser. The Reports of these Societies will show that their work consists, among other things, in dealing with exactly such cases of suffering as are found in the play. If those who have seen the play would help the Societies, they would do something to relieve the distress of the good people who say these things do not exist because it is so uncomfortable to think of them.

The Postmaster-General announced on Wednesday that he intended to bring in a Bill dealing with unreasonable obstructions to his Department in regard to way leaves. The telephone line between Padstow and Hawkes Cove is very necessary for life-saving work, but the owner of the land objected to the wires and insisted that they should be removed: as a result the service has proved ineffective. It appears that Colonel Prideaux-Brune's partridges have suffered through the wire, and he declines the Government's offer of rent as compensation. We must say this is the sacred bird theory carried far. We have no doubt of course that his birds suffer. When telegraph wires were first established in England, partridges were killed in considerable numbers: after a few years they apparently grew accustomed to the wires, for it was noticed that fewer came to grief. Driven birds however, pheasants especially, always have and probably always will be injured at times. We have seen partridges, disturbed by a passing cart, spring straight up from the ground into telegraph wires and drop instantly.

Sir Gainsford Bruce who has retired from the Bench, and has been succeeded by Mr. Reginald Bray K.C. obtained his legal honours without having won distinction at the Bar. His career is chiefly noticeable as furnishing an instance of the service it may still be to a barrister to be a staunch party politician and win or lose, more usefully lose, many elections. He was specially fortunate in being rewarded with several minor legal offices, such as a Recordership and the Chancery of the County Palatine of Durham; and it would have been a fair climax if he had been made a County Court Judge. But Lord Halsbury's political judicial appointments were then in full swing, and Mr. Gainsford Bruce was one of those who benefited. The victory in the Holborn election was the decisive point in Mr. Gainsford Bruce's fortunes; and he had hardly won it when he was made a judge to give way to Sir Charles Hall, though the Government was supposed to have intended to utilise it for the benefit of Mr. Ritchie. As a judge Sir Gainsford Bruce has won respect by character and manner rather than by ability; and if he won admiration it was on the occasion when he awarded his dues to Mr. Jabez Balfour to whom he owed his one moment of emergence into notice. With his usual good sense and tact he is avoiding a formal leave-taking in Court—a ceremony much better unobserved—and will part with

his many friends in the Hall of his Inn, the Middle Temple.

One of the greatest of law-suits in the House of Lords is attracting less attention than a running down case. Questions of Church Establishments, doctrinal points and not least a million of money are in dispute in *Free Church of Scotland v. Lord Overtoun*. It has been argued for a week, left over for several months, and is now being re-argued; and when it will end no one knows. In 1900 the Free Church of Scotland decided to unite with another Presbyterian Church and become the United Free Church of Scotland and owners of the Free Church's property. A dissentient minority object on the ground that the original Free Church maintained by its constitution the principle of a State Establishment whereas the new body is founded on voluntarism. They contend that alteration on this point was not competent to a Free Church Assembly, whatever powers it might have over its creed. The decisions of the Scottish Courts have all been against the dissentients who are the appellants. Proposals for the union of the Churches prior to 1900 were frustrated by the threat of litigation such as the dissentients are now maintaining; and if the union should be declared invalid, there will be an ecclesiastical confusion in Scotland of an extraordinary character. It is a hard case for the dissentients who are left with only their martyrdom to principle for consolation; and either by compromise before judgment or after there may be some arrangement by which a remnant of the more comfortable garment of property may be allowed to cover their nudity if they are defeated.

We would not describe the appointment of Mr. Firth to the Regius Professorship of Modern History at Oxford as a disappointment; for it was expected that the post would go to a working University man; and Mr. Firth's knowledge and authority are probably not second to those of any historian in Oxford to-day. But it is something of a humiliation to think that we cannot find for the office once filled by Freeman and by Froude a man of singular literary distinction, above all of originality, a man of the larger adornments. The truth is he scarcely exists in England to-day among the historians. We should have liked to see Mr. John Morley appointed: this would have strengthened Oxford.

Who wrote "The Curse of Minerva"? This was a riddle put the other day, in the dulness of an education debate, to some of our most scholarly, one might say educative, members of Parliament, and to one—at least one—of the most brilliant of the press gallery, whom we might almost call a man of letters. Oxford University in Parliament could not answer the question, Cambridge University could not, while the press-man could not say who did write it, but he knew it was not Lord Byron. It would never do to take this as indicating Parliamentary ignorance; it must be excessive sensibility to literary fashion. Evidently it is the right thing in the House not to have heard of Byron.

The world has long been agreed that age must have its privileges, and we should be the last to question them. But it does strike us as rather an abuse of these privileges when Sir Henry Howorth is allowed some two or three days a week to occupy one or more columns of the "Times" to the exclusion of interesting matter. It is very hard on "Times" readers that they should have to pay the price of the Commons' immunity. Sir Henry Howorth may be a Nestor and Mentor in one, but he knows nothing either of economics or theology, and his iterated sermons (he has but one on each subject) on fiscal policy and Church questions are becoming simply maddening—not what he says, for we don't read them—but the sight of his name at the end of a solid block of words. Sir William Harcourt became very nearly a bore—in the "Times"—but there was always wit with his garrulity. And when he affected learning about Church law and history, that was quite a different thing from Sir Henry Howorth on the Athanasian creed, whose letters on that subject convince one that we must at any rate have a damnatory clause of some kind, to meet particular cases.

OUR CREAKING EMPIRE.

IT would be easy to treat the Dundonald affair as merely an ugly incident, unfortunate, of course, but not serious, one of those little differences that mark the relationship of even the best of friends, a subject to be avoided and as soon as may be forgotten. That might be all very well, if the matter stood by itself, if the irritation were merely of the skin, to be removed by superficial emollients. But if the irritation is symptomatic of something wrong with the blood, some disorder in the whole system, to treat it easily as a mere surface ailment is certain failure as remedy, and may mean driving the poison deeper into the constitution with ultimate mortal results. Look at it from what point of view we may, we cannot help seeing in this affair exceedingly disquieting symptoms, touching the very life of the British empire. This indeed is its one and only compensating aspect, it discloses so rudely the weakness of what we illusively speak of as our imperial system that even careless observers can hardly help reflecting on the anomalous and impossible relation by which the different parts of our British Oceania hang together. The imperial issue involved is so much more important than the personal or so-called constitutional consideration that we are inclined to consider the matter from that point of view only. It is, of course, exceedingly unpleasant that such insult could be offered to a distinguished Englishman, who as a soldier has done eminently good service to the empire, by a Canadian ministry. It is painful that Lord Dundonald should have received such treatment; it is still more painful that he should have received it in Canada. We do not for one moment believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who regards a distinguished British officer as a "foreigner" and a "stranger", has the people of Canada behind him. We as strongly believe in their attachment to the British Empire, and in the reality of their imperialism, as we have never believed in the loyalty of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He prefers his Liberalism to the good of the empire, and his Liberalism demands that a pedant's point of constitutional procedure should be pressed to deprive his country of an unusually competent public servant, who had brought to his work a disinterested keenness which not one of the professional politicians, of whom Sir Wilfrid Laurier is chief, could for one moment match. But Sir Wilfrid and his ministry are but a passing item, and this incident, we have no doubt, will help them to pass the more quickly to make room for their Conservative opponents. And Lord Dundonald for his part will know how to take his rebuff, making allowances for its authors, and remembering his motives in exposing the scandal.

But more permanent aspects of the affair remain. Technically the position of the General Officer Commanding the militia in Canada is peculiar in its tenure. He is appointed by the Imperial Government but paid by the Dominion: and constitutionally the colonial authority is within its right in removing him although appointed by the Imperial Government. It is of course a ridiculous anomaly, unfortunately of a kind which abounds in our "empire". Lord Dundonald succeeded Major Hutton; he too found his position in Canada unpleasant and in fact untenable. In these circumstances it was most desirable that a first rate soldier should take the command of the Canadian militia, a position not to be confused with the command of the Imperial troops in Canada, a small garrison mainly at Halifax. It was not certain where or even on which side the source of Major Hutton's difficulty lay, and everybody was glad when Lord Dundonald accepted the very important but probably thankless appointment. Arriving in Canada he found nothing but confusion in military spheres; there was really no military organisation, discipline was slack, equipment deficient. The element of compulsory service recognised by the Canadian constitution had degenerated into a farce, just as it did nearer home in the Channel Islands. Lord Dundonald did not find the material at his disposal very easy to mould. Canada had sent excellent contingents of volunteers to South Africa. What had Canadians to learn in military science? To a military man, of course, such a way of looking at things was merely

foolish. A few picked volunteers, assisting a large regular force in a campaign which almost throughout had more of the nature of irregular fighting than of scientific war, could be no criterion of the efficiency of a national militia to fight independently in a regular campaign. However, there could be no better raw material than the Canadians, and the militia wanted only organisation and discipline to become an effective force. In spite of the difficulties Lord Dundonald was making progress, and, what is more, he was carrying the Canadian people with him. For reform necessarily nothing was more vital than the quality of the militia officers, and Lord Dundonald paid close attention to their selection. On the formation of a new regiment for Eastern Quebec, he submitted a list of officers for confirmation by the Government, when the Minister of Agriculture, in the absence of the proper Minister of Militia, struck out the name of one whom Lord Dundonald knew to be eminently well qualified for the position of a militia officer. The motive of Mr. Fisher's action was plainly political and Lord Dundonald, knowing the unlimited mischief which the introduction of party considerations into military administration would mean to the militia, took the opportunity of a public dinner to call attention to the Minister's acts. He wanted, of course, not so much to get the particular nominee restored as to concentrate attention on the danger of political interference with the command of the militia. For this Sir Wilfrid Laurier's ministry, wounded in their self-importance, have cashiered him. The text of the order in council relieving Lord Dundonald of his command makes the explanation of Mr. Fisher's action, which was always easy to surmise, clear. It is explained in the order that every Minister is in practice given "special responsibility for the public affairs of the province or district with which he has close political connexion." Mr. Fisher has close political connexion with the Eastern townships of the province of Quebec. We all know what "political" means in local association in a country governed by paid professional politicians. The permanent significance of the matter for Canada is that a political minister, in this case of all things in the world the Minister for Agriculture, no matter how profoundly ignorant of everything to do with soldiering, is to override the deliberate judgment in his own department of the professional soldier expressly appointed as expert to command the national militia. And in future the Canadian ministry, by the weakness of the present Imperial Government, will make the appointment. Possibly this latter change is not of such significance as might appear, for it is doubtful if any British soldier of position would in future consent to take an appointment exposing him to the chances of such treatment as Lord Dundonald has received. But the effect on the Canadian militia will be disastrous. No doubt the Minister for Agriculture and Sir Wilfrid Laurier think a Canadian civilian quite as good a military instructor as any professional soldier. One day the Canadians will find out the reverse, and the British empire will suffer for their mistake.

This abrogation of Imperial appointment to the command of the Canadian militia severs another link in the empire—a constitutional link. This is regrettable in itself, particularly so when it is Canada, reputed the most loyal portion of the empire, which has broken the link. But the constitutional point is a trifle compared with the reality behind it. It comes to this that what we call an empire has no system of imperial defence; for there can be no system of imperial defence without some authority which has power over all the forces of the empire to direct them as a whole. The defensive force of the most important, and the most critical or "pivotal", province of the empire stands out of relation to any imperial authority. In case of war between the United States and the British Empire the Canadian militia might refuse to recognise the authority of the general commanding the Imperial British forces in Canada. Such a state of things is the negation of the essential conception of an empire. The British Empire has no means of controlling and directing its own defensive forces; it cannot even know what is its own effective strength for defence. It is then a misnomer and an illusion to call it an empire at all. It is not even a confederation.

WALES AND THE FISCAL QUESTION.

WILL Mr. Chamberlain fare better with the Welsh voters over fiscal reform than he did over Irish Home Rule is one question which the unreported speech of last week suggests. In that speech he seems to have taken the line that anti-Church feeling alone makes Wales a Radical preserve—and there is some truth in the view. But it is not the whole truth, as Mr. Chamberlain's former political experience in the Principality shows. When he went there in the eighties as a Nonconformist, a supporter of Disestablishment, and a champion of Ulster Protestantism he might have seemed certain of obtaining an easy victory in the fight against Home Rule. There too he preached the gospel of Radical Unionism in a manner that delighted the English dissenter. He said, too, strange words concerning a Welsh Land Bill and a Welsh National Council. But all these things moved the Welsh Nonconformist not a jot. In one election Welsh Liberal Unionism was annihilated and while Mr. Gladstone lived, Wales, which as Oxford, is a chosen "home of lost causes," clung to Home Rule with unshaken fidelity. No doubt many reasons creditable and the reverse may be assigned for the Welsh vote of '86 and '92. It is enough for the present to remember, that whatever his limitations, the Welsh voter does not always poll simply as a Nonconformist.

Is there then, it may be asked, any reason to suppose that on the fiscal question the Welsh voter may break from his Liberal traditions of the last forty years? If the Welsh people were logical economists, the question would no doubt have an affirmative answer. From an industrial and an agricultural standpoint alike few parts of the United Kingdom of recent years have been harder hit by Cobdenism than has been the Principality. On the industrial side of the question however it is needless after Mr. Chamberlain's speeches to dilate. It is satisfactory to know that Welsh Radical wire-pullers are notoriously anxious as to the way in which the votes of the tin-plate workers will go at the next election. Welsh agriculture however is a subject on which no fiscal reformer has yet spoken. Yet there lies ready for him a sad and practical sermon in the rows of ruined cottages that meet the eye in Pembrokeshire and in the fields of Carmarthenshire and Cardigan, where the old men alone seem to labour. And not less melancholy than the rural exodus is the hard struggle that the Welsh farmer carries on against the fate that our economic system is surely bringing to the Welsh homestead. Many Welsh farmers, you may read in the report of the Welsh Land Commission, cannot afford to get a piece of fresh meat once a year. Indeed the unsatisfactory condition of Welsh agriculture has for many years been an unflinching topic of the Welsh Radical platform. No doubt the remedy urged thereon as also in the report of the Welsh Land Commission is anti-landlord legislation on Irish lines. The refutation of the idea that in such legislation there is to be found the panacea of the Welsh farmers' ills is furnished by the speeches that the Welsh Liberal M.P.s addressed some years ago to the Chancellor of the Exchequer when they pleaded in vain for pecuniary assistance to the finest body of men in the Principality, the small freeholders. As was then shown in Parliament the small freeholder fares worse in Wales to-day than even the tenant farmer; and not even the Welsh Land Commission dared propose the establishment of a Welsh peasant proprietary. In fact Wales to-day (if we except the industrial districts) is rapidly passing into the state to which Professor Ashley has shown that Cobdenism will eventually reduce England. The young and the hopeful are flying to the Welsh coalfield, to the great towns of England or the United States. The country towns which have neither seashore nor scenery to offer to the Saxon pleasure seekers are decaying. The farmer is fighting a hopeless battle with a cosmopolitan economic system. And the lodging-house keeper in the fashionable watering-place is flourishing gaily on Saxon money; and soon there will hardly be a creek in Wales where a modern hotel will not stand, and where the banjo and cockney English will not oust the Eisteddfod and the tongue of Dafydd ap Gwilym.

Great as has been the effect which Mr. Chamberlain has already produced, we believe that it would be intensified if he would point out the goal to which Cobdenism is bringing the hardy and intellectual peasantry of Wales.

But were he to speak, would there come any response from the Welsh countryside? Frankly we are not sanguine. True it is that Welsh Radicalism is somewhat discredited. The "Young Wales" movement of Thomas Ellis is dead. Some of the "Young Wales" M.P.s (as they were once called) have made some mark in the House; but they have neither won disestablishment for the Welsh preacher, nor eased the ills of the Welsh farmer. Indeed the enthusiasm for M.P.s of the Irish order seems to have died out even in Thomas Ellis' constituency, and wealthy Imperialist Liberals willing to subscribe to chapels are likely to be at a premium in Wales at the next election. Add to this that the Nonconformist ministers who have been the unflagging supporters of Radicalism are aware that even if a Liberal Government results from the next appeal to the constituencies Welsh Disestablishment will not be a step nearer, and it may therefore be presumed that, though they may do something to aid their friend Dr. Clifford, they will hardly go into the fray with their old zeal.

Unfortunately though the Welsh peasant may be disenchanted of Liberalism, there is no reason to suppose that he is any more attracted to Toryism than he was in '86. Religious prejudice combines with the inertia of the countryside to keep him a nominal Liberal. And over and above this all the best vernacular speaking and the strong influence of the vernacular Press may be counted on to support the free trade cause, for there is little originality of mind among the Welsh politicians of the day; and while they are theoretically despisers of the Anglo-Saxon intellect, they are practically believers in the infallibility of the leaflets of the National Liberal Federation. But greatest of all the obstacles that would confront a Tory democrat in Wales is the political unpopularity of the Welsh Conservative aristocracy. It is useless here to discuss the question whether or not this unpopularity is deserved. The Welsh squires (even the Land Commission report showed this) have not been bad landlords. At the same time they are almost as much out of touch with their tenantry as the English landowners of to-day would be with theirs, if their only language was Norman-French. Nor have the Welsh gentry taken any step that would commend their political principles to a keen-witted peasantry. The unfortunate political evictions of the sixties were not very numerous and were much exaggerated; all the same they have left a bitter memory behind them in a country where memory is long. And even though political evictions have happily long ceased, the tone of Welsh Conservatism remains narrow and oligarchic. Lord Penrhyn is to-day one of the foremost Tory leaders of North Wales, and not a single squire or parson in the whole of Wales, we believe, dissociated himself from that nobleman's gospels of "free labour" at the time of the Bethesda strike. Of course if the Welsh squires choose to combine with Welsh Nonconformist ministers in preaching a gospel of the narrowest and most sinister individualism, they can hardly complain if the Welsh peasant votes Cobdenite.

The misfortune remains that while the squalid faction fight continues on the Welsh hustings, while a narrow and individualistic Liberalism wins easy victories over a narrower and more individualistic Toryism, the thrifty and intelligent peasantry of Wales, who if Squire and Parson in that land had done their duty in the days that are past would be to-day the strongest bulwark of constitutionalism in the island, and who under a saner economic system would be as rooted in their homes as the country folk of France, may quietly leave the land of their fathers to the lodging-house keeper and the tripper, the more fortunate to blossom out into London or New York dairymen or drapers, the less lucky to swell the residuum in the slums of London or Chicago. Yet there is just the chance that a plea from Mr. Chamberlain's lips for the preservation of the Kymric homestead may awaken a response among the population who heard unmoved his appeal for Ulster Protestantism.

CORNISH MINING MORTALITY.

A HOME OFFICE inquiry into the health of Cornish miners might at first sight appear of somewhat limited range. In fact the report to which it has led shows that it has relations to many matters of very general importance. At the very first step we are taken from Cornwall to the Transvaal; and we find that very probably if it had not been for the unhealthy conditions of Transvaal mining there would not have been that serious development of mortality amongst miners in Cornwall which forced the attention of the Home Office, and led to the appointment of the departmental commission whose report has just been issued. Again, few subjects are felt to be so grave as the effects of tuberculosis on the health of the nation; and in this report we have an investigation of a source of tuberculosis which exists in the industrial occupations carried on by many thousands of the sturdiest inhabitants of the country. If the Cornish miners are only a comparatively small proportion of our working population, the conditions under which they work are typical of those of their fellows engaged in mining in the Transvaal, where not only social but political considerations are involved, and of the condition of the much greater numbers who are engaged in the United Kingdom in coal and ironstone mining quarrying and related occupations. The circle is even wider still; for the investigation of the Commission may be generally described as dealing with the effects of dust as a creator of diseased conditions in various organs of the body and especially in the lungs. In the daily work of modern life we are not only metaphorically but literally distinguished from our easier going ancestors by kicking up more dust; and if our natural health and physique are becoming unsounder than theirs, we could perhaps hardly find a better explanation of it than to say, in ordinary language, that in our industries we create and live in more dust of various unhealthy kinds than they did in their day.

In our textile factories the creation of dust has been guarded against as an obvious source of danger: and it is still engaging the attention of factory inspectors and medical and scientific experts. Coal dust has been long recognised as not only an element in explosive conditions but as a source of phthisis; and stone dust whether in ironstone mining, quarrying, or grinding has had an even worse reputation. Machinery has not been so extensively used to supersede the simpler primitive tools and apparatus in these employments as in spinning and weaving; but of late years drilling the rock with machine drills for the purpose of blasting has to a great extent displaced the old hand-drilling. Many powerful explosives have been added; and the general effect has been to expose miners more than ever to whatever dangers may arise from dust. In the Transvaal mines this is notably the case; and the Transvaal Miners' Phthisis Commission and the Transvaal Medical Society Committee reported on the causes of the mortality from phthisis in those mines. The report contains several passages in which there is an association of Cornwall with the Transvaal. In one of them it is remarked that the conditions under which rock-drill work has hitherto been carried out have been far more detrimental to health in Transvaal than in Cornish mines. Another passage states that the recent rise in the death-rate of Cornish miners is mostly due to the effects of work in South African mines. A third passage is as follows: "As so many Cornish miners have died and are dying from the effects of work in the Transvaal mines, it seems scarcely out of place for us to call renewed attention to those mines, and to urge here the importance of dealing drastically and without delay with the dangerous conditions which have hitherto prevailed in them". The circumstances of metalliferous mining in the Transvaal and in Cornwall are very similar; and much more comparable to each other than they are to coal or ironstone mining. In respect of mortality this is very close; and it appears that between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five the death-rate from lung diseases among miners living in Cornwall has recently been from eight to ten times the corresponding death-rate among coal miners or ironstone miners. The dry dust caused by the working of the machine drill, and the clouds of dry dust enveloping the miners when the rock

is brought down by the blast, are the causes of the lung disease both of the Transvaal and the Cornwall mines.

All other causes whatever are eliminated by the Report as comparatively of no importance in causing extraordinary mortality. Except so far as dust exercises its baneful effects, Cornish mining is on the whole declared to be an exceptionally healthy and fairly safe occupation; and as regards men up to the age of forty-five shows marked improvement during the last fifty years in accordance with the improvement among the population generally. Up to 1892 only, men over forty had been exposed to an excessive mortality from lung diseases. Then there began an enormous increase in the death-rate particularly among younger men from about twenty to forty-five, with the result that the total death-rate at all ages from twenty-five to fifty-five is now far greater than at any previous period during the last fifty years. The close connection established between Cornish and Transvaal mining by their death-rate, and the cause to which in each instance it is due, is further marked by the suggested remedy in both cases. The recommendation of the Transvaal investigators was that "Dry mining should, as far as possible, be converted into wet mining". This is also the recommendation of the present Commission, with this difference that they advise the prohibition in all mines, not only in the metalliferous but other mines, of the use of percussion rock drills in hard stone without satisfactory precautions for preventing the dust being inhaled by the men. The men who work the machine drill have a much higher mortality than others working in the mines; but the Commission declares that in both cases excessive mortality can be prevented by the use of spray appliances which they describe, and which have met with the approval of the managers of the mines. It is not altogether surprising to hear that the men have raised the most objections. They dislike the "mess", to put it briefly; but the Commissioners believe that they would readily submit if boring dry holes were made definitely illegal. There would be no difficulty from the owners to the method being made compulsory; but if it remained optional, a few owners might thwart the wishes of the majority.

The Commission whose Report we have been considering was appointed in 1902 and Dr. Haldane, the medical expert of the Home Office, in December of that year presented a report, which was published about eighteen months ago, on a curious disease which had appeared amongst Cornish miners and which for some time was not understood. It was discovered after some difficulty that it was the same disease which was prevalent among the workmen in the S. Gothard Tunnel twenty-five years ago, and more recently has been found amongst miners in Germany, Belgium and some other countries. It is not unfrequently found amongst Lascars and on board ships that have been in the tropics; and it is in fact a tropical disease known to science as *ankylostomiasis*. The cause of it is an intestinal worm and since miners became aware of it they have spoken of it as the worm disease. At the last Trade Union Congress there was a discussion on it; and the prevalent opinion seemed to be that the alien immigrant had something to do with it. The explanation is certainly to be found in uncleanness for which proper sanitary appliances are the remedy. Conditions as to heat and moisture are more nearly tropical in mines than are to be found in our ordinary English climate; and in consequence the worm develops in excreta, and the infection is spread in ways which it would be unpleasant to describe. Fortunately the disease yields to certain simple remedies, and the Devonshire miners are already practically free from it. Its prevention is to be found in the adoption of sanitary measures, and the Commissioners think that the time has now come for dealing with the matter by legislation or special rules. An interesting comment on the fact that the remedy for one disease may be the cause of another is found in the statement that the adoption of "wet mining" will make the conditions more favourable for the worm disease; and it is stated that the disease would have been very prevalent in the Transvaal mines had they been wet instead of dry. But it is of immense importance for our national wellbeing to know that "there is no reason why work underground, in whatever kind of mine, should not be a perfectly healthy employ-

ment; the work itself is thoroughly wholesome both to body and mind, and the special dangers, whether to health or to life and limb associated with different varieties of mining are such as, if recognised and faced, can be avoided provided that both employers and employed will co-operate in bringing this about". With knowledge such as is furnished by this Report widely spread amongst all classes, and vigorous initiative and control by the State, there is every reason to believe that our modern industrialism can be freed from all its special dangers to the physique, happiness and morality of the community.

THE FUTURE OF THE GIRL UNDERGRADUATE.

MR. JOHN MORLEY was anything but "gleig" in seizing the opportunity offered him at Oxford on Saturday. The opening of the Somerville Library was more than an academic function. The occasion was accepted by the University, whose vice-Chancellor gave his official sanction to the view, as an opportunity for the recognition of a certain epoch in Oxford and indeed in English life. Mr. Morley was addressing among other distinguished people a body of women who have led the movement of which the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Somerville marks a distinctive stage. They represented many of the best workers in what has been called the new revolution, but Mr. Morley refused to meet the intellect before him and paid the audience as equivocal a compliment as the "Times" which attached a "Mr." to some of the council's names. The principle for which the members of the Somerville Council keep a special conviction is that girls should be considered as worthy the chance of a University training as are boys of their class, not because they may be compelled into the teaching profession or can claim independence but for the sake of the life itself and the character it develops. Nor would they shrink from the corollary that it is as much the duty of parents to expend trouble and money on the education of their daughters, and in the same direction, as on their sons. There may or may not be extravagances, but the general acceptance of the occasion as a challenge from a group of energetic and successful representatives of this social philosophy gave Mr. Morley a great privilege and a great opportunity. The occasion was there and the man; and therefore the disappointment was the greater when he refused to give his sails to the wind. The "physiognomy of libraries" was not at issue, but the cause of the University woman; and Mr. Morley's good easy axioms about nothing in particular satisfied no one. He might have been opening one of Mr. Carnegie's gifts.

Clearly one type of education is gone by the board. An old music-master in London complained some years ago that he had no work since cycling came in; and whatever the reason the parlour education for which he stood is happily gone. It is a question what shall take its place. Is it the case, as the Somerville Council hope, that girls will in the future come up to the University as a natural step in the course of life and for just such objects as men? And if so, is it well that their desire for this life should prevail? Mr. Morley held his tongue. It is at least certain that the public schoolgirl is now a recognised product. Girls' schools modelled with the necessary qualifications on boys' schools have sprung up in many parts of the country, in some cases, as at Charterhouse, under the very wing of the boys' schools; and though some of them are small, and many are privately owned and all are new the girls who are taught there grow into the eager, athletic, natural, distinctive type of the normal public schoolboy. They develop the same sort of comradeship and keenness and are interested in the same quality of things. They lose the affectations that belonged to the old "finishing schools" and if sometimes they acquire a certain jargon, a suggestion of boyishness, it is perhaps better than a too mincing nicety. We believe the product to be good; and know it to be at worst happy and healthy. From the emergence of this class it necessarily follows that more and more girls will go on, as boys go on, to the University, even if no deeper motive is forthcoming.

than a desire to extend the sort of life that has been so far so much enjoyed.

The revolution moves. In the United States it has moved faster than here, but we devoutly hope this lead will not be taken. A large number of American women are well educated; they have pursued a university course and extended it, still under the direction of the universities, on to the European capitals. Girl graduates from the United States may be found hanging on the lips of professors of art in the lecture-room above the galleries of the Louvre. We have seen them copying manuscript papers of the Medicis in remote museums. But the American girl either pursues culture as such for its own sake or seeks an education which shall for ever after enable her in society to prevent any one else, especially any man, from getting a word in edgeways. The multiplicity of subjects in the school course is demanded by eager parents, because it is held that any girl who cannot talk faster than a man can think makes a social fiasco. But in spite of co-education, which ideally has many virtues, and the large percentage of women undergraduates, the pursuit of university life for its own sake is not an attribute of the newest American education. The careful avoidance of what every person ought to know, a piece of tapestry work, a knowledge of recipes, a constant strumming of unsympathetic keys, which once formed the burden of a ladylike education, have advantages over this snippet emancipation of woman's intellect. In neither is any true analogy with the education of men sustained.

But at Girton and Newnham at Cambridge, and Somerville and "Maggie Hall" at Oxford, the revolution stands by a different canon. The Girton report for last year opened with the words, "This college is designed to hold . . . a position analogous to that occupied by the Universities towards the public schools"; and we may accept the similarity in the education and the spirit in which it is sought. The plea just issued for a large sum for extensions is another welcome sign of the growth of the woman's University, and the real beauty of the buildings should help the response. We have only to ask, supposing Englishmen to be the better—apart from any professional advancement—for their University life, if it follows that English women—and it is worth noticing that not more than fifty per cent. of Girtonians are recorded as going on to professional work—will be the better for a like experience? The Hausfrau philosophy is not dead in England; and the notion prevails that as a woman's special sphere is the management of a house it is dangerous to give her the run of other outside interests lest she should become as bad a housekeeper as a man, or should lose interest in social fripperies. But is a man a bad housekeeper? and is there anything in the varied and difficult duty of properly managing household affairs which belongs only to those members of one sex who have not had the opportunity of developing their open-air faculties. The "blue-stocking", on whom much humour was expended when Girton was first built, was no doubt a specialised product of a type that was distinctly unfeminine. But the women who go through three years of University life for the sake of the free play of faculty which the life best offers are the contradictory of the blue-stocking even if they have taken a first in the Tripos or in Greats. Nor are they more likely to be averse from the work of house-keeping or to be incapable of it than the University man from governing a Presidency or managing his property or doing his professional work. In every development are dangers. The girls of Jane Austen's period ran the risk from the sheer silliness which their education fostered. It is possible that if the parallel is developed there may appear at women's universities types unpleasantly like the spendthrift snob who is found here and there at Oxford and Cambridge. The confession of the danger is itself an acknowledgment that the capacities of women and men are not after all greatly different. Society is not free from such types now; and there is nothing to stimulate their production in university life, which from the necessity of the friction of companionship is always a school of common sense. But take Girton or Somerville, as it is: such danger has not yet appeared, though every year a larger proportion of girls, many of them rich, come up because they like it and for no better reason. If Girton and Somerville have

not the antiquity of foundation, the momentum of a past—and this influence can scarcely be underrated—which belong to Oxford and Cambridge they are in other ways very near copies. The regulations are a little stricter, the pressure to work is a little more personal and insistent. A humourist might attempt further to shatter the parallel by a declaration, quite true to fact, that at university dinners girl students drink the toasts in water or milk. The parallel is close nevertheless, and is likely to become closer, and there is remarkable resemblance in the types produced. The likeness is especially clear in the attitude towards games. The inter-university hockey match, played yearly at Blackheath, is as good an exhibition of a game as we have seen—in spirit, in skill and in enthusiasm. The percentage of success in the schools is much the same as at an ordinary reading college. The life in college, its meetings, debates, entertainments, is lived in much the normal undergraduate spirit. Are we to regret it if according to the present tendency more and more girls of the upper classes in England shall desire, like the boys, to go through the normal school and college course for the very simple objects which Squire Brown summed up in respect of his son Tom? The question is beset with prejudice, is capable of endless argument in philosophy. But it is a very artificial world if a life which makes woman happier and healthier and more natural does not make them fit instruments for doing any part of woman's work. After all the final argument lies in a knowledge of the type. What is the new public school and university woman like? Cherchez la femme. Compare the "blues" on the Blackheath ground with the old London music-master's most diligent pupils. It is not hard to tell which type has more womanhood.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND THE CHANTREY BEQUEST.

LORD LYTTON'S motion for a committee of the House of Lords was down for consideration on Friday the 10th, but an unexpectedly long debate on another subject led to an adjournment, and the question will come on for discussion next Tuesday, the 21st. I may be excused, then, for returning to a subject which has occupied the SATURDAY REVIEW at intervals for more than a year, and pointing out how the matter now stands between the public and the trustees. The charges brought against the Council of the Academy are by this time so familiar to my readers that there is no need to set them out afresh, and I have endeavoured elsewhere* to make them as plain as possible, printing the text of the will and a list of purchases side by side with them so that those interested can judge for themselves whether or not the case has been fairly stated. Since that summary appeared there has been ample time for criticism and reply, and the unanimous verdict appears to be that the charges were moderately stated and are unanswerable in fact. Not one of the papers, so far as I know, has raised its voice in defence of the Academy, a remarkable state of things when we consider the bias in favour of that body with which the subject would naturally be approached; and several of the most influential papers, metropolitan and provincial, that had not previously declared their views have recently expressed themselves even more forcibly than we cared to do when first drawing attention to the facts and inviting explanation. The policy of the Council of the Academy in keeping silence under an indictment regarded on all hands as established, and the indication given by the purchases for the present year that they have no intention of reconsidering their methods, have certainly not improved their position in the public estimation, and the slighting references of the President at the banquet to critics generally and to the work of an artist whose exclusion from the Chantrey collection is one of the heaviest counts against its administration have had an effect, whether inside or outside of the Academy, very different from what was intended. I may add that in some of the articles I

* "The Administration of the Chantrey Bequest." Grant Richards. 11.

have referred to the ground of complaint hitherto taken by the critics has been extended, and with good reason, for only a part of the case has been pressed, with the intention of raising a clear issue. With a view to that, the names of those artists only were put forward whose reputation has completely established itself, and the list of those men, which might be considerably increased, was limited backwards by the date of Chantrey's bequest. There is nothing in Chantrey's will, however, to make this a necessary limit; there is no more than a probability, which raised a scruple in my mind, that he had in view contemporary and future artists to the exclusion of his predecessors. The question of the older English artists, as being open to argument, I therefore left over, and also the question of contemporaries, about whose merits there is, as yet, no complete agreement. Among well-informed critics, however, there cannot be the slightest doubt that when twenty years more shall have passed, the dealings of the trustees with our contemporaries will seem no less narrow and partial than they are proved to be for the period that we can now see in calm perspective. A list of some of these omissions has been drawn out by the critic of the "Daily Telegraph", whose knowledge of the field and impartiality no one is likely to dispute. I merely note this point for the present, so that it may be understood that the case we have submitted is only a fraction of the whole; it is the fraction about which argument is no longer possible, and is sufficient to illustrate the Academic policy.

The strength of the case thus established may be brought home to non-artistic readers by supposing a parallel in some other branch of intellectual activity. Suppose that a sum of money had been left to the Royal Society as the most representative scientific body in the kingdom, the money to be employed in purchasing on liberal terms from discoverers the right of publishing their discoveries with the imprimatur of this representative and royal society. Suppose further that it was declared that only the importance and value of the discovery was to be considered, and that all considerations of friendship, sympathy and goodfellowship were expressly excluded. Suppose further that it had so happened that some of the greatest discoverers of the time, say Darwin, Simpson, Joule, Lord Kelvin happened not to be Fellows of the Society, and that on a scrutiny of the awards it was found that not one of the great outsiders had been favoured, but that the money had been consistently spent inside the Society, whether the favoured person was really eminent or only a vulgariser of research. That is, as nearly as the cases admit, a parallel to the action of the Royal Academy in ignoring Stevens, Rossetti, Madox Brown, Holman Hunt, Whistler, Cecil Lawson and Legros and favouring the derivatives and vulgarisers as they have done. Or again suppose an academy of literature entrusted with money to purchase and publish the work of poets in the same way, and that Tennyson and Arnold, being members, were favoured, but that Browning, Fitzgerald, Swinburne and Morris, not being members, were excluded in favour of the Lewis Morris and Alfred Austins, we get a still closer parallel to the history of the Chantrey Trust.

It is high time, then, that some effective means should be found of extracting an explanation of their policy from the President and Council, if explanation they have to offer; in any case that the charges brought should be investigated by a disinterested tribunal. Lord Lytton's proposal, if the House of Lords should agree to it, has several advantages over the possible alternatives. An appeal to the law-courts would very likely result in a protracted conflict on technicalities rather than the equities of the case. In the House of Commons the rules of debate and the pressure of business make the thorough discussion of a subject like this and the arrival at a practical issue a matter of some difficulty. Mr. W. J. Bull, however, the member for Hammersmith, has given notice to call attention to the management of the Tate Gallery on the estimates, thus indirectly raising the question of the quality of the Chantrey collection. I imagine that his line of argument is that, whatever the Chantrey Trustees may do or leave undone, the director and trustees of the National Gallery are responsible for the admission of works into the national collection, and

ought to veto anything that is unworthy of such a collection. The line of attack, if I am right in my supposition, is an ingenious one, because it claims for the House of Commons indirectly, as paymaster of the director of the National Gallery, a control over the doings of the Chantrey Trustees. The House has, of course, no direct jurisdiction over the Academy, because the Academy does not come upon the estimates, and could only alter the constitution of the Chantrey Trust by legislation. But there certainly appears to be a possible foothold in the point taken by Mr. Bull, and it is to be hoped that it will at least result in discussion and in attention being drawn to the anomaly by which the President of the Academy and leading Chantrey Trustee is also a judge of what is admissible to the gallery of British Art.

In the meantime, however, the chances of full and impartial inquiry seem to lie with the House of Lords Committee. Debate in that House is singularly free; there is leisure for the discussion of non-party subjects, and a calm atmosphere. The Academy could not easily find a less prejudiced tribunal, and none of us wish to have prejudice imported into the inquiry. A Committee of the Lords is a much less elaborate machinery than a Royal Commission; it could get to work and report in a reasonable time. It is to be hoped, then, that the House will see its way to grant the inquiry, and that, if it should be granted, the Trustees will not be so foolish as to put obstacles in its way.

The motion is not only for inquiry into the past administration of the Trust, but for reporting on means by which the existing methods of selection might be improved. The past is a bad story; it is the future we have to look to. Now the moral of the past is that to leave the administration of what was practically a national bequest in the hands of one artistic society, interested in the awards not only pecuniarily but as a means of maintaining prestige, was to ask too much of ordinary human nature. Moreover, the Academy has not, unfortunately, the means within itself of setting aside those who have proved themselves incompetent in administration, and of making the better opinion prevail. By its constitution the Council is mechanically formed, by rotation, and none of the younger blood of the associates is represented. To this want of flexibility is due, to a large extent, the small and jealous character of its policy and its loss of representative character. When Chantrey drew up his will the predominance of the Academy was much greater than it is now, and it was reasonable to treat it as the representative artistic body. Any system of reform by which that might again become possible and the Academy be reorganised as the central administration of a group of societies would be welcome, but it is clear that justice towards the other societies can hardly be looked for from their competitor. The machinery set up by Chantrey, with all its safeguards, has defeated his admirable intentions. The intentions are the main thing; can they be furthered by a change of machinery? I, for one, cannot believe that a committee, even of a more representative kind, will ever prove satisfactory in the choice of works of art. A committee is a machinery of compromise, and in this business compromises are fatal. The compromise between a Whistler and a Holman Hunt is an Edwin Long. I say Edwin Long to avoid giving pain to his living colleagues who are actually in the Chantrey collection. Edwin Long was the typical painter of "pictures of the year" in the 'eighties. His "Marriage-market" broke the record at Christie's by selling for £6615, at a time when his great contemporaries were cheap. The revenge of this sort of thing is that it would probably not fetch as many shillings now. Last year a picture by Long, sold in '88 for 800 guineas, fetched 115. The next item in the sale list from which I take this is a Monticelli bought some years ago for a guinea-and-a-half. Last year it fetched 490 guineas. These contrasts, which might easily be paralleled among the pictures bought and neglected by the Chantrey Trustees, are typical of the two methods of collecting, that of the man of conviction and that of the fashion of the moment, which is the Committee's. If the Chantrey collection had been entrusted to a Leyland, Ionides, J. S. Forbes, or Hamilton Bruce, what a magnificent collection we should now have after a quarter of a century! My conclusion,

which no doubt it will take time to get accepted, is that the real solution of the Chantrey problem is to put the choice in the hands of one man, a capable director of the modern side of the National Gallery, who shall have full responsibility. Such a man would make some mistakes, but they would be the exception, not the rule. In the meantime it is not too much to demand that some check should be devised on the Academy's control of the Chantrey funds.

D. S. MACCOLL.

THE CAFÉS OF PARIS.

III. WITH THE BOURGEOISIE.

AUTHORITIES have held that the backbone of France is the bourgeoisie—but Flaubert, Maupassant, the de Goncourts, and Théophile Gautier (kindest of men) all confessed to a veritable hatred for the bourgeois, and fled his presence, and, in their own cultured circle, surpassed one another in the creation of witty, scathing commentaries. Terrible were their indictments; and no less terrible are the onslaughts of the novelist and playwright of to-day. It is fashionable to sneer and shudder at the bourgeois. It is considered a proof of excellent breeding to wince, as though in pain, at the mere spectacle of a bourgeois family. Call a man a "bourgeois", and you have said your worst of him. He is horribly branded, he is damned.

However, the bourgeois is not in the least bit troubled by all this hostile, unflattering criticism. He is the healthiest, most satisfied of mortals. He has no nerves, few emotions, and enjoys the friendliest of digestions. The smallest, most innocent little pleasures amuse him, and his pet pleasure is the café—a good bourgeois café—where he may do as he pleases and where he feels entirely at home. Once he has found his café, he sticks to it. He has his corner, and regularly at five o'clock he and his friends occupy that corner, and occupy it again at nine. The manager and waiters address him by name, take an interest in his bouts of dominoes, backgammon, *écarté*, and billiards. Sometimes, on Sundays, the corner is adorned by the lady of the bourgeois, in her best. She, also, feels *chez elle*. Of these bourgeois cafés, there is a number in the neighbourhood of the Place du Châtelet.

A bourgeois may be stout, red, apoplectic, with a double chin; or he may be a little wisp of a man, with colourless hair, weak eyes, and a melancholy expression. Stout or thin, he is healthy and happy as he settles down in his corner; stout or thin, he wears a black coat and pepper-and-salt trousers; and this afternoon, in this café, we have both the stout and the thin, and a good dozen of them.

"You, Blondel, know many people. Among them, could you not find an honest, sympathetic young man for my eldest daughter?" That is what Flaubert most hated in the bourgeois: he is for ever seeking to marry his daughter.

"Je chercherai", replies Blondel. And then, the question of daughters. Ah me, daughters of the bourgeoisie, you are not to be consulted in this important matter! Blondel has said, "Je chercherai". Yes, Blondel will go looking about for a young man, and when Blondel has found the young man he will bring him to the café, there to be introduced to the young lady's father. And the father will stare at him, and question him, and invite him to dinner; and if the young man turn out to be "sympathetic" and "serious", well, then it only remains to discuss financial matters. How much dot? What is the young man's position, and has he "prospects"?

"My daughter will have 30,000 francs," says Perrin.

"C'est beau," replies Blondel, "Je ne vous oublierai pas. Je chercherai."

"With 30,000 francs," observes Bertrand, "there should be no difficulty."

"Certainly," agrees Collin. "Mon cher Perrin, I regret I have no son for your daughter."

"Allons, allons," interrupts one of the apoplectic, ill-temperedly, "Pipelet and I have to play dominoes. He is waiting for his revenge, *hein*, Pipelet? But be careful, be careful. I am feeling in a lucky mood. Garçon, les dominoes."

Gracious goodness, the importance of games in a bourgeois café! We have Pipelet and one of the apoplectic at dominoes; we have a quartette at French whist, a pair at backgammon, a pair at *écarté*, and a pair at billiards. Those who are not playing look on. And they strain their eyes, and they utter ejaculations, and they kick about with their legs; and all the time the players comment on the game.

"Now if I could draw the double-six! I would give a franc to draw the double-six! You would be ruined if I drew the double-six! Watch me, I draw. No—not this time. The double-three. See, I place it here. Now play, Pipelet, play."

"You are always marking the King. One would say you were a Royalist. No—no—no, I refuse cards. There, I play the ten of hearts. Next, I play the queen of diamonds. Eh, you are worried. I thought I would worry you. Here, Blondel and Collin, see how I am worrying Bertrand."

As for the backgammon players they cast dice, murmuring, "I move here; no, I move there. No, let me pause, let me think. If I move here, you will do this. But if I move there, you will do that. Never mind, I risk it, and move here."

Cries and cries from the billiard-players. Into what contortions do they throw themselves as the balls run about the table! A favourite movement of expectant anguish is to throw up one leg, and hop about on the other. Then, there are flitting, serpent-like movements, and there is also a stampede of disappointment and disgust round the table. "I make it, I make it! No, it will never go far enough! Execrable table! Let me try another cue, let me try the shot again. What, you will not let me try it again? Play yourself, then." And sulk. And mutters under his breath. And tells Collin in a whisper that it is because Durand is frightened of losing the match that he will not let him try that shot over again. Here and there goes the manager, encouraging, congratulating, or sympathising with the players. Say the waiters, "You have no luck, M. Blondel," and "You are fortunate as ever, M. Pipelet," and "Ah, that was a coup de maître." And also utter exclamations of admiration. And also throw up their legs. And also, in a word, attach colossal importance to the games.

"Les Illustrés", orders a solitary bourgeois. To him are taken five illustrated papers, and the bourgeois passes an hour in staring at kings, battleships, laying of foundation stones, abnormal vegetables, airships, the Alps, and savages. Near him are five bourgeois, who discuss the municipal elections. They have heard the Nationalist candidate speak sublimely of the army, the frontier, the navy, and France. And they are tremendously loyal and patriotic, and when one of them declares, "I am for France, and France before anything," the remaining four applaud on the table and say, "Très bien, très bien". Soon, they fancy themselves politicians, and rise—yes, rise—when they address one another. And they call one another "citoyens". And they deal blows at the table. And one of them goes so far as to cry, "Vive la France!"

"I echo the Citoyen Bouzant's noble cry", observes the Citoyen Follin. And again is there applause, and this time the "citizens" beat their sticks on the floor. And what with the enthusiasm of the politicians, and exclamations of the players, the café becomes positively uproarious.

"Leave me in peace. You distract me, you make me lose my head", protests an *écarté* player to a looker-on, who has been offering him suggestions. The *écarté* player is flushed, and the veins start out of his forehead, and often he mops his brow and vows that the "situation is critical". And there is reason for his emotion: two drinks are on the game. And this in a bourgeois café is rare and wonderful, for usually the bourgeois pays only for his own one drink.

Now, no less than seventeen bourgeois engaged in games, surrounded by almost as many bourgeois spectators. The excitement is at its height, the "situation" at its most "critical"; and the apoplectic look quite alarming, and a flush has come over the face of the colourless and thin. Mercy, the number of contests that are on the point of being settled! Fists come down on the tables, and legs kick about in the air; and then, at last, there are shouts of victory and somewhat ill-

tempered complaints of defeat. The games are discussed. Certain moves are deplored, and certain "leads" are regretted, and then the games are played all over again in words.

"If I had had the double-six three minutes earlier, you would have been lost."—"I was wrong to give you cards. You had nothing. You won by chance. It was no game."—"Leave me in peace, it was your talking that made me lose."—"I played well. Yes, I say it myself, I have never played better." Strutting about with their hands in their pockets, the players hold forth at the top of their voices. Collin wants his revenge, but Bertrand replies condescendingly, "To-night, my friend, to-night, I must go home, for we have a duck for dinner. It was a present from my sister-in-law, and we have invited her to share it with us. I have seen the duck: it is magnificent."

"No more *Illustrés*, you have had them all," says the waiter to the solitary bourgeois.

"Citoyens," cries the one of the politicians, "let us separate with the cry of 'Vive la France.'"

"And Vive l'Armée," suggests a second.

"And down with traitors," adds a third.

"Don't forget about the young man," says Perrin, drawing on his coat.

"Certainly not," replies Blondel, "I will look, I will look."

"Until to-night, until to-night," say the manager and waiters to the crowd of disappearing bourgeois.

And away they go to their little bourgeois flats in a bourgeois quarter; and three hours later they are back again in the bourgeois café, hard at their games, the same old games; and so will it be on the next day, and on the day after that, and until the bourgeoisie—vain, idle supposition—becomes extinct.

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

LOVE-SCENES ON THE STAGE.

UNDOUBTEDLY, the passion of love is the best of all themes for drama. But it is not the only theme, and I regret that it is so regarded by our playwrights, and that, even when some adventurous one dares to take another central motive, such as the passion for gold, always must Eros be dragged in by the curls. However, my present concern is not to deplore this custom, but to note a rather curious fact in connexion with it. In all these love-plays there are very few love-scenes, and these few are always very brief and perfunctory. Scenes of doubt and misunderstanding between the lovers are common enough, and elaborate enough. But, when the course of their love is running smoothly—howsoever smoothly—we have but the faintest and most fugitive glimpses of their so important love-making. What reason is there for this anomaly?

The reason is partly in the national character—in that self-consciousness which makes English people so very inarticulate, so very inexpressive of their emotions. English people often can and do, as is proved by the reports of actions for divorce or breach of promise of marriage, write ardent love-letters. Through an indirect medium they can express themselves finely enough (though I suspect that these letters are not so much a spontaneous ebullition as the fruit of a resolve to do what is romantically expected of themselves both by their correspondents, and by themselves, and that a good deal of time and at least one rough copy are needed in the composition of them). Set the two people face to face, and they are practically tongue-tied. They can perform love's pantomime—kisses, clasped hands, and so forth. But love's litany is beyond them. They can deal only in the conventional formulae of one or two syllables, or in the conventional question and answer. Anything like a gush of words or a flight of fancy would put them to the blush. It would sound insincere to them both. In only the tritest kind of talk, quite inadequate to express what they are feeling, will they dare indulge. "D'you love me?" "You know I do. D'you love me?" "Yes, you know I do." Of this interchange of question and answer, repeated at short intervals in exactly the same form, and eked out with a small stock of endearing ejaculations, is composed the English

love-scene (whatever its duration) in real life. It is, no doubt, a very various and beautiful scene to the two persons by whom it is enacted. But transfer it verbatim to the stage, and even the most indulgent audience would presently be bored by it. Realism, then, won't do. On the other hand, the interlocutors must not be made eloquently expressive. Of course, in a romantic drama, with costumes of a bygone age, you may have a love-scene of passionate avowals in tirades, with tropes and metaphors, with sun and moon and stars. It is a moot point whether at any time in the world's history, and even in the most meridional countries, have lovers orally expressed themselves in such a fashion. No matter: romance is licensed. But if in the modern realistic or quasi-realistic drama of English life there appeared two lovers capable of expressing orally the depth and heat of their mutual sentiment, the audience would instantly and unanimously be rocking with laughter. Thus the dramatist is beset by two dangers: on the one hand, his love-scenes will be tedious because inexpressive: on the other, they will be ridiculous because expressive. It is, however, possible to effect a compromise, and the dramatist does his best. He tries hard for such a blend of the actual prose and the needful poetry as shall counteract the ill-effects of each. I think I see him at his desk, biting the tip of his pen, gloomily. At length, after a long mental struggle, he sets his pen to paper, and writes

HAROLD. "*Mildred!*"

MILDRED. "

He paces up and down his room for a few minutes, and then, with a shrug of his shoulders, inserts *Harold!*" More pacing up and down, and presently is added

HAROLD. "*My darling!*"

MILDRED. "*My darling!*"

(*They embrace.*)

HAROLD. "

He nerves himself with a cigarette, and writes boldly, blindly

The very first time I saw you—you remember? it was in the orchard."—(She presses his hand.) "*The apple-blossoms*

He deletes the apple-blossoms, and hurries on to

"*Well at the moment of seeing you, I knew—even then—that I loved you.*"

MILDRED. "

After some hesitation, the dramatist rises, puts on his hat, and goes out for a long, brisk walk. On his return, he is delivered as follows:

And I, too, Harold, knew that I loved you."

HAROLD. "*Dear one!*"

MILDRED. "*Dearest!*"

(*They embrace.*)

Such is the compromise that our dramatist makes; and really, considering all things, I think his work is as good as it could possibly be. But oh the feeling of utter fatuousness in doing it, and oh the fatigue of doing it, and oh the long refreshing sleep when it is done! I do not wonder that the poor fellow does it as seldom and as succinctly as he can. An Englishman is always embarrassed in writing a love-scene—always feels that he is making an ass of himself. If it be a love-scene in a novel, he can save his face by turning it from the lovers to the landscape. The lovers must say something from time to time; but . . . *All nature seemed to be holding her breath. In a glory of gold and purple the sun sank behind the western hills. A heron came flying across the lake. It tipped the water with a wing of silver. Somewhere in the distance a chaffinch was calling to her mate. Her insistent note . . . and so forth, ad infinitum.* Or again, if Nature is out of the environment, *From below there came to them, like the sound of some great distant orchestra, the murmuring hum of the great city.* Here follows the author's apostrophe to London, or to Manchester, or whatever the place happens to be. After that, perhaps, the lovers say something; and then, *Under the window a street organ was playing some waltz. For years after, Harold could never hear that air without living again that hour that he had spent with Mildred.* And then, either we are told that he could always remember clearly what she was wearing (this is described), and every object in the room (these are catalogued), or we have a disquisition on the mnemonic power of sound as compared with that of

sight and scent. Thus in novels the love-scenes are comparatively long and elaborate. But the poor dramatist is debarred from the novelist's happy subterfuges. He cannot write around his characters. He must simply find in his heart words for their lips to utter, and kisses for their lips to exchange. Play-writing—I mean, of course, the writing of plays for the theatre: the only defensible kind of play-writing—is always, necessarily, the form of art least satisfying to the practitioner. It is but a series of suggestions thrown out in the hope that other people will, later on, make something of them. The task of play-writing can be tolerated only by a man who either loves the theatre for its own sake or is very keen to make money. For it is not a task lightened, as the task of writing a poem or an essay or a story is lightened, and transformed into a joy, by the sense of an effect that is being accomplished, once and for all, by oneself. Play-writing is so indirect and so incomplete a form of artistic activity that no man, however apt to it, can work himself up through it to any heat of creative passion. The playwright cannot lose himself in his task, for his task depends not on himself alone, and is his but in part. He must work always in cold blood, with an austere eye on the horizon, and with a pious hope for mercy from powers unseen. No wonder that he, working under these conditions, and he an Englishman, with all an Englishman's reticence in matters of sentiment, dreads the task of partially unpacking his heart with words for Mildred and Harold, and writing them solemnly down on foolscap paper in order that they may be hereafter spoken by Mr. Dash and Miss Blank at the Theatre Royal Asterisk. The wonder is that he does not shirk altogether a task so hard.

MAX BEERBOHM.

SERVICE AT TENNIS.

THE recent match for the Tennis Championship at Brighton is memorable mainly for its lessons in service. Of the various forms of attack open to the tennis player it receives much less attention than it deserves, and this in spite of the fact that it is really the only branch of the game within the compass of the ordinary player. Years may he spend in vain pursuit of a proper stroke; never in all his days may he rise to a good force; but learn to serve with tolerable skill he may—if he can observe and take trouble. Without these virtues he had better not play tennis.

Of the three forms of attack—stroke, force and service—which is the most to be prized by the player? Stroke is so entirely of the essence of tennis, its very core and fibre, that it is difficult to give it any but the first place, but there is (properly) no variety in stroke, we can aim at but one kind of perfection, and though to play tennis with no perception of the beauty of stroke is to play a bastard kind of tennis, still stroke once acquired can only be retained and strengthened, and the best players make use of their beautiful stroke (we conceive) with no conscious effort. Of the force, again: there is little to learn. See good tennis for a year and there will not be much about it you do not know—as an observer. And if you have the eye, if you have the hand, you have only to go and do likewise. But no amount of teaching will give you a boasted force like Latham's, or a straight force like "Punch" Fairs'. The pace of your force will depend upon the skill with which you can time the ball and timing the ball is a thing you cannot be taught. As Mr. Grace is reported to have said, "I see the ball, and I hit it"—volumes could say no more.

But these objections apply greatly less to service. If in a year we may learn the natural history of the force, in how many years shall we learn all there is to know about service? Something fresh or something new is constantly to be observed. It may be in the delivery of some well-recognised service, or in some variety of such service, or in some new form of some such service or variation, or it may be in the variety of first stroke which these services compel. Of this last it might be thought that such "variety" would be infinite (as, in a sense, indeed it is) but, amongst good players, the replies

to certain services become very well known and any new and really good variation from such replies is well worthy of note. But this point, if considered further, would carry us beyond our limits.

The principal kinds of service recognised by players are three—the underhand twist (sometimes called the "railroad" service), the side-wall, and the drop. The first of these was for years the sole method of opening the game used by Pettitt and his form of the service was as near perfection as one is ever likely to see. He stood at about chase one and two and about a yard from the battery wall. Almost facing this, and with right shoulder dropped, he would serve the ball with strong swinging underhand cut—the head of his racket ending high on his left and possibly hitting the battery wall—while the ball would fly along the edge of the pent-house, never more than about two feet from the absolute edge, descend rapidly near the nick (the angle of the end battery wall and the floor) and thence spring along the face of the side battery wall with such strong curl as sometimes to worm itself into the winning gallery. This service was Pettitt's powerful and unvarying attack in his two great matches in 1885 and 1890, against Lambert at Hampton Court and Saunders at Dublin. For his match with Latham in 1898 he produced a new overhead service. To this we will refer later.

The most important variant of the underhand twist is the beautiful "giraffe" service—a favourite mode of attack of Saunders and Mr. Lyttelton. For this the server will stand much as for the underhand twist, but the ball instead of being made to skim along the pent-house will be made to rise high in the air, the higher the better, and thence will drop on the edge of the pent-house, some couple of feet from the end battery wall, and thence fly to the nick at the extreme limit of the service court. Delivered well it is a great and a splendid attack. The volley is the only possible answer and if the ball is only a few inches from the end battery wall, is travelling very fast and spinning at a great pace, well, you have an eye for tennis if you do much with it. But this is the service as you see it in the hands of a master; what we may call the "baby giraffe" is a very different matter. This innocent has no long neck to speak of, no spin to speak of, and bounces amiably from the pent-house several feet from the end wall. If you do not make a delightful volley off that you have only yourself to thank.

The side-wall service (like the giraffe) was a favourite attack with Saunders. In its simple and first state he served it with incomparable effect, indeed, in our opinion, it was his strongest attack. How many things, alas! have tennis lovers lost with Saunders! There was a kind of classic simplicity and severity about his game that made him a model in all the technique of tennis. If you would know what was the perfection of stroke, what exactly was a giraffe service, a side-wall service, a drop service, whether it were possible to put on cut when stopping a hard force, to all such questions the easy answer was—"look at Saunders". Those were days indeed when he and Latham battled from season to season at decreasing odds: Saunders master of the game, accomplished in all points, and Latham, younger, more brilliant, eagerly pressing into service the parts of the game of Pettitt, Mr. Lyttelton, Saunders himself, that he saw the way to assimilate, and meeting his opponent's greater knowledge and precision with a perfect genius of resource.

For the side-wall service Saunders would stand about chase three and four and about a yard from the main wall. Striking the ball with much bottom and side cut he would play it high to the side wall to a point nearly on a line with the face of the end battery wall. Thence its cut and spin would bring it sharp down to the pent-house whence it would fly with great speed to the nick. In fact the difficulty of Saunders' side wall and giraffe would depend upon the accuracy with which he could keep the necessary space between the ball and the end battery wall at its least, and it always seemed that Saunders could succeed in this with his side-wall services more often than he could with his giraffe. The side-wall service is also served from near the battery wall. This is Latham's general service. He delivers the ball low and fast with great cut, or "stuff", upon it,

it will drop near the nick, and will come off the end battery wall at a wide angle. Its excellence is in its length and in its pace. It is not much to look at from the dedans, but its beauties are not lost upon the striker-out. It is one of those services which can usually be taken in a way, but not quite the way you desire.

The drop service is delivered from near the main wall at about chase four. The ball is played with bottom spin high into the air and designed to fall about a foot from the edge of the pent-house and near the end battery wall. Its drop there should seem to kill it and its subsequent weary rise and fall into the corner of the service court should be its expiring breath. It should fall, the books tell us, like a "poached egg"—limp, lifeless, with no encouraging bound to assist the striker-out. It is a fine service, but risky, for if served a little short it is easily volleyed. "Punch" Fairs found this to his cost during the latter half of the second day's play at Brighton; his drop services were short and Latham volleyed them crushingly to the forehand corner of the service court, sometimes, perhaps generally, boasting them with great severity from the battery wall.

We were glad in this recent match to see very little use made of the "railroad" service referred to above as Pettitt's invention of 1898. It is an ugly un-tennislike delivery with nothing but its novelty to recommend it. "Punch" with his fine mastery of side-wall and drop services, Peter with his useful side walls, good giraffes and rare but quite admirable underhand twists have no need for irregular openings of any kind. Latham it is true has never troubled himself with the service but Punch for a time seemed bitten and we were glad to see that it was now no favourite part of his armoury. Great players can take certain liberties with impunity and they deserve our thanks when they resist the temptation. To be envied as they are for being able to play a game as only two or three in a generation can play it, they owe it to their admirers to play, on "full dress" occasions at least, not merely a good game but the best.

THE CITY.

A PART from the sharp burst in the American railroad section there has not been any very decided movement among the more speculative securities of the Stock Exchange and interest has again been chiefly shown in the gilt edged stocks. There does not appear to be any positive information in regard to the impending Water stock issue and the market is naturally much concerned, more especially as so many divergent statements are in circulation as to the actual position of affairs—meantime the uncertainty is acting adversely to quotations both in the stock and money markets. It is by no means unsatisfactory that there should be a period of rest from the stream of new issues which have poured forth during the past few months—the jobbers have still much new stock on their books to dispose of, and this must be absorbed by the investor if the present high level of prices is to be maintained.

The Natal Immigration Loan to which special reference was made in our issue of last week, was completely successful, indeed the lists were closed three days before the advertised time; the Greek Railway Loan was also fully subscribed.

The determined opposition by the Corporation of London to the London Docks Bill in its present form, and the protest presented to the House of Commons, caused a drop of several points in dock stocks, and the opinion is gaining ground that the Bill will not be proceeded with during the present session.

The volume of business in American rails showed considerable expansion in the early days of the week, the feature being in Unions, Southern Pacifics, and Ontarios. But on Wednesday the announcement was made that the Southern Pacific Company proposed to issue 7 per cent. preference shares to the extent of \$100,000,000 and an immediate drop of three points took place in the ordinary shares of the company, with sympathetic depreciation throughout the list. The statement referred to took the market, both in London and New York, completely by surprise and it does not augur well if it is necessary to make an issue of such magnitude at the

present time when markets have steadily fallen away in America during the past year.

The shareholders of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway are to be asked to sanction the issue of a further £1,000,000 of ordinary shares—thus doubling the capital of the company—and the immediate effect of the announcement was a drop of a couple of points in the shares. The circular issued by the directors points out that the progress of the railway in recent years is directly attributable to judicious expenditure undertaken in the past, and to secure and maintain the company in its present strong position it is necessary to increase and to improve the rolling stock, and to carry out necessary improvements called for by the expansion in every branch of the railway. The receipts show a considerable increase over the figures for the corresponding period of last year; and with the steady improvement generally throughout the Argentine the expenditure now under contemplation should prove highly reproductive if the policy of the past is continued.

The mining markets have been very dull. The boom in the rubbishy stocks of the Westralian section has come to an end and South African shares have been under the influence of Ascot, the nineteen day account, and the approach of the end June option account—a combination which has proved too strong for any upward movement in spite of the steadily improving outlook in the Transvaal. Of the influences named the maturing of options is the most potent. It is to be deplored that the controlling houses do not discourage the operations in option stocks which have so largely increased during the past few years to the detriment of the public and ultimately we believe to that of the finance houses also. The public are becoming tired of seeing any legitimate rise checked by the artificial means employed by the controlling houses who may have heavy options maturing—one day perhaps the financiers concerned will realise that they are killing the goose which lays the golden eggs.

INSURANCE.

NORWICH UNION LIFE OFFICE.

NO Life Assurance Company has made such solid progress during recent years as the Norwich Union Life Office. Founded so long ago as 1808 the Society possesses all the advantages, which in life assurance are very great, of a long history, valuable connections, and financial strength of a kind which can only be built up in the course of many years. But combined with these advantages the Norwich Union has a remarkably efficient and energetic management, which enables it, year by year, to beat all its previous records. The new assurances in 1903 exceeded £3,000,000, or more than double the amount it was accustomed to write six or seven years ago. Normally, so large an amount of new business would mean an excessively high rate of expenditure, but in the case of the Norwich Union great extension is accomplished at a cost for management which is quite abnormally low. Last year the expenditure was only 54 per cent. of the new premiums, and 5.4 per cent. of renewals, as compared with an average expenditure by British offices of 80 per cent. and 8 per cent. respectively. In many other companies the effective rate of expenditure is increased by the payment of dividends to shareholders, but the Norwich being a mutual office has no such payments to provide for.

The reserves of the Society are sufficient to meet all its liabilities on the assumption that the funds earn interest at the rate of only 2½ per cent. per annum. But as the rate of interest actually earned is £4 1s. 11d. there is a margin of £1 12s. per cent. per annum of the funds as contribution to surplus for the participating policyholders.

A further large source of surplus is the favourable mortality experienced by the Society. The amount paid for claims last year was £317,675, and the death claims were less than the amount expected and provided for by £61,000. This favourable mortality means that by the postponement of the payment of claims the Society receives interest for a longer period than was anticipated, and in many cases receives further payment

of premiums than the mortality tables provide for. These sources of profit added to the large margin derived from interest, and the economy of management, naturally produce extremely good bonuses which are distributed every five years.

The Company also does a considerable annuity business, the whole of the profits from which are received by the participating policy-holders, in addition to the substantial profits from the non-participating assurance business of the Company. At the last valuation the non-profit assurances amounted to 44 per cent. of the total assurances in force, a proportion which is exceptionally large for a mutual office, or indeed for any company, and means a considerable augmentation of the bonuses paid to the whole of the with-profit policies. These latter, indeed, become partners in an old established and highly successful business, which they have done nothing to create.

In these circumstances it is not surprising to find that the policies of the Norwich Union are exceptionally profitable. For every class of assurance the Society's policies are advantageous, and a further characteristic of the Norwich Union is the great flexibility of its contracts. A policy-holder pays his premiums and may do almost what he likes with the accumulations that result. The numerous options of settlement, with which the American companies first made us familiar, are prominent features of the Norwich Union policies. The prospectus contains a large variety of the best kinds of policies, and to a greater extent than almost any other company the Norwich Union is prepared to issue policies meeting exceptional cases in effective ways. In ordinary circumstances a policy-holder may do best to take one or some of the most usual forms of policies, but in certain cases there is much advantage to be derived from an exceptional kind of policy when it can be obtained on favourable terms.

We have often pointed out the advantages offered by life assurance for purposes of investment, both as a means of saving money for future years, and as a method of obtaining an immediate income at a good rate of interest, combined with the most complete security. Such investments can sometimes be made to the best advantage by taking policies in two or three different companies; but owing partly to the excellence of its policies, and partly to the favourable terms it can afford to give to annuitants, the Norwich Union Life Office is able to present to investors policies of this kind of a more remunerative kind than other companies are able to grant.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GIRTON.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Girton College, Cambridge, June 15, 1904.

SIR,—May I be allowed to bring to the notice of those of your readers who are interested in the higher education of women an appeal for help to enable us to take advantage of a generous offer which we have recently received?

Girton College was opened at Hitchin in 1869 with six students, and since its removal to the present freehold site near Cambridge has been added to, from time to time, to meet the steady growth of demand for admission. In 1897 however it became apparent that unless development was to be seriously checked, there must be extension on a much larger scale than hitherto, including not only students' rooms, but dining hall, lecture rooms, kitchens, &c., the accommodation furnished by these having for some time been found insufficient. This latest extension has been completed, and there is now adequate provision for 150 students. But the outlay has unavoidably been very heavy, and though friends and old students have contributed largely, it has been necessary to raise a sum of £40,000 on mortgage.

In order to help towards the reduction of this debt, a parent of one of the present students has most generously come forward and offered £2000 on condition that a further £18,000 is raised for the same purpose by July 1907. This is a great deal to ask for, but it is gratifying

to be able to state that some response has already been received to the letter of appeal signed by members of the college, which was published last week in the "Times" and several other leading papers. Attention may perhaps be again directed to the fact that of the 908 students admitted since 1869, 147 have been in residence during the past year and 600 have obtained Honours in the Tripos Examinations of the University of Cambridge. The College has fully justified the confidence of its friends, and I venture to appeal to the liberality of your readers, in the hope that they will help us to take advantage of the offer that has been made.

Contributions may be sent to the Bursar, Miss M. Pickton, 54 Abingdon Court, Kensington, London, W., or to the "Girton College" account at Barclay's Bank, Cambridge.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

E. E. CONSTANCE JONES.

SIR FREDERICK MAURICE ON SIR JOHN MOORE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—Your editorial note requires a short note of comment. Having once granted that Moore had large stores of provisions at Villafranca, Lugo, and Betanzos, you have practically surrendered your positions (a) that the cause of the rapid rate of the Corunna retreat was want of food, and (b) that Moore's refusal to fight more than three rear-guard actions in his long march arose from the fear of starvation. For the army had, if properly managed and not over-hurried, ample transport to take on four days food from Villafranca to Lugo [sixty miles not eighty as stated in your note] and three days food from Lugo to Betanzos [forty-seven miles not sixty as stated in your note]. I need only point out that, over-driven by its commander as it was, it brought through many hundred carts to Lugo, and shot 4000 horses and mules at Corunna. This was in spite of the fact that Moore on January 5 compelled his men to march thirty-six continuous hours, and that on January 8-9-10 he gave them two successive night marches, and did the forty-seven miles from Lugo to Betanzos in about thirty-five hours. Flesh and blood could not stand this, and he lost 4000 stragglers, when by giving his troops three or four more days on the route he could have brought them in with a quarter of that loss. To do so he would have had to fight a couple more rear-guard actions in some of the innumerable defiles between Cacabellos and Betanzos: it would not have cost more than a few hundred killed and wounded, and 3000 "missing" would have been saved. Your note suggests that if Moore had fought such actions he would have had to abandon the wounded from them: this I grant. But they would have been very few compared to the mass of men lost from over-driving during the retreat—perhaps a tenth of the figure.

But Moore had resolved to fly at break-neck speed not because of the provision difficulty, but because he had formed the erroneous opinion that he could shake off Soult by hurrying. "After a time", he wrote to Castlereagh from Astorga, before starting on the retreat, "the same difficulty which affects us must affect him: therefore the rear once passed Villafranca I do not expect to be molested". Was a retreat ever undertaken under a more erroneous hypothesis? Soult pressed Moore hard, not only to Villafranca but to Corunna, and in the vain hope of escaping molestation by mere speed the English general lost a sixth of his column. It would have been infinitely cheaper to detain the enemy, who was always brought to a complete stand when the rear-guard showed fight, and to have arrived at Corunna on the 14th instead of the 11th of January.

I am, yours faithfully,

C. OMAN.

FISCAL TEACHING.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Athenæum, June 11, 1904.

SIR,—You close your article on the fiscal question with the statement—"The mass of the people require to

be taught and they must be taught by those who know. Let us perfect our fighting machine." This seems to me a complete and accurate summary of the present position. Can I induce you to go one step further and consider why the mass of the people have learned so little from the piles of statistics which have been flung among them and whether their teaching may not be perfected by a very easy and obvious though much neglected method? The man you want to teach is the average elector. Out of one hundred average electors probably not ten have the capacity or the habit of extracting from a huge heap of statistics the lesson which they have to teach. Even of those ten not more I should think than one or two will take the trouble (and it means a good deal of trouble) to dissect and analyse the figures presented to them; therefore statistics do not speak intelligibly to more than one or two out of every hundred. Now suppose we put our statistical tables into a graphic form and invite the items of our fighting force to glance at curves instead of poring over bewildering figures. If we did this, instead of one or two out of a hundred we should have more nearly ninety-nine per cent. who without effort would grasp (because they could not help it) all that the figures have to say to them. You can't help seeing whether a curve slopes up or down. This is a method very familiar in other inquiries but strangely neglected throughout this fiscal controversy. It is said that the Tariff Commission is doing a little in this direction. Why should not they do a great deal and put the whole substance of their case into a shape which will speak to the whole indolent or possibly stupid majority instead of reaching only the minority who have industry and capacity enough to pick out the truth without any teaching at all.

If this plan were adopted, the "mass of the people" would be taught and the "fighting machine" would be perfect.

Yours obediently,
G. W. H.

REFORMATION BY SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In your admirable article of last week, "A Step in Penal Reform", you write:—"We have improved most of late years in dealing with juvenile offenders". May I tell you something of one chance reformatory school?

The drawings to scale of the carpenter's shop have been declared by the Government inspector to be patterns for all government schools: the school has distinguished itself against many competitors in football, cricket and swimming: the band is one of the best in a far neighbourhood: last month there was practically no illness and no punishment.

A visitor—we will assume—looking at a photograph of the boys' cricket or football team said, "Damme! If you didn't know, you might take 'em for Eton boys."

On the top of a tram or omnibus I entered into conversation with a bright, well set-up young soldier, just back from the Boer war. "Where am I going, sir? I'll tell you. I am going back to see my old school, and I'm proud to belong to it. It's the — Reformatory School."

I affirm, doggedly, that the children and even young men of our country are clay in our hands, out of which to make lazy, mindless scoundrels or God-fearing, self-respecting servants of our King. And I affirm, doggedly, that some of the best material we have to work with is that of the lawless classes.

For obvious reasons I do not sign my name.

Your obedient servant,
X.

BIGNESS IN INSURANCE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

11 King Street, Cheapside, E.C., June 11, 1904.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to your excellent article on "Insurance: the Booming of Bigness" in your issue of January 31 last year, I should like to give you my experience of American insurance.

In 1884 I was induced, by the following figures issued in their prospectus, to take out a policy for £500 in the "Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United

States" on the Tontine Savings' Fund Plan, maturing after twenty annual payments of £15 17s. 6d. each.

The printed prospectus informed me that at the end of the twenty years I should have the following options:

1. Cash value of policy at maturity £579 10 0
2. Assured may then draw out, and have a paid-up policy for £500 334 8 0
3. Or, have a paid-up policy for 1275 0 0
4. Or, an annuity during life, and £500 at death, of 34 18 0

On the strength of this, I and two friends took out policies. These have now matured, and in striking confirmation of the article in your paper above referred to, I now give you the results. The options now offered to me by the society are as follow:

1. Cash value of policy at maturity £408 12 7
2. Assured may draw out, and have a paid-up policy for £500 163 10 7
3. Or, have a paid-up policy for 808 0 0
4. Or, an annuity during life, and £500 at death, of 12 14 0

These figures speak for themselves; and I would advise intending insurers to do as you suggest, namely: "To listen by all means to the cogent arguments in favour of assurance put forward by the American offices, and then go quietly away and take a policy in some sound, strong, economical old British office that will give chief consideration to the welfare of its members."

Trusting I am not encroaching too much on your valuable space.

Yours truly,
PHILIP KENT.

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS AND BOYS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

London, W.C.

SIR,—Mr. Cloudesley Brereton deplores the cockney accent of the London schoolboy. The London teachers are already at incredible pains to remove that offence. But their difficulty is that a boy, who in class can render true aspirates and pure vowels throughout a page of difficult reading, will revert to the gutter whine so soon as he reaches the street.

Mr. Adkins speaks of the elementary teacher as suffering from perpetual supervision. Is it this that represses him so much as lack of interest in his work, from the general public, from the parents of his scholars, and more particularly from the Universities?

Mr. Brereton and Mr. Adkins agree that education is a matter of the teacher and the child. The typical elementary teacher of to-day strikes me as a somewhat wistful person. He is tired of his groove. He would like, for instance, to compare notes with a public schoolmaster. He works skilfully and conscientiously, but with some doubt as to whether his instruction properly equips his boys (of whom he is very fond) for life. He makes his salary fit his needs, and, even though he half envies his brother or nephew in business, he would be fairly content if some person of understanding would take interest in his work. In short he has discovered for education how to keep order and how to teach, and he would like to know how he shall apply these discoveries. Surely it is for the professed educationalists to inform him.

On the other hand the typical elementary schoolboy is a docile youth with that capacity for taking pains which is not genius. He can go so far as he is shown the way, but very little further. He is being taught a trade—that of a junior clerk.

Do the professed educationalists approve of him?

Yours, &c.,
EDWARD HOUGHTON.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Poins House, Cornish, New Hampshire, June 5, 1904.

SIR,—The SATURDAY REVIEW is always so well informed on social and political matters in the United States that I'm sure you will welcome a correction of

your statement in the issue of May 21 that Mr. Hearst is the Democratic candidate for President. He is not only not the candidate, for the nominating convention does not meet for some weeks to come, but there is no possibility of his nomination when the convention is held.

Very truly,
LOUIS EVAN SHIPMAN.

FROM A CATHOLIC TORY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your musical critic, whom we all read with so much satisfaction, delight and profit, for his solfeggio is so accurate, and his staccato passages so ear-piercing, seems to me as a humble member of the old faith and a Tory to do some injustice both to my religious and political creeds. I do not wish to be exclusive, and I look forward to the reconciliation of the Roman, Greek and Coptic Churches, with no very immediate hope of seeing my wish fulfilled.

Nay, Sir, I would not even shut the door upon the Nestorians and the Anglicans, though humbly believing that they are in error, and having some doubts as to the legitimacy of their orders. I glory in the name of Tory, and hold that Toryism (rightly comprehended) is no bar to democratic feeling and sympathy.

These being my opinions, and I think I may say without vanity, my convictions, I venture to register my respectful protest against a phrase of your musical critic's article in your issue of May 28th. As an old Winchester man, I am at one with him as to the "Importance of having Manners", though I venture to think that our pious founder expressed the sentiment more tersely in his "Manners maketh Manne". Your critic, Sir, hopes that our opera may not become an Exeter Hall where the "prosperous pious grocer, having well sanded his sugar, would sing his practical and Protestant war songs".

Now, Sir, without wishing to profane the more than Eleusinian mysteries of Exeter Hall, I feel deeply grieved on reading the above passage. I wish to ask your critic, Sir, if Mr. Kipling is a Radical, a member of the Exeter Hall faction, or for that matter a professed Protestant? Is he not the singer par excellence of the War Song in excelsis? Is it not to him that we owe our imperial spirit, and much of the debt thereby incurred? Do not countless thousands read him with reverence, and bless his name, when they pay increased Income Tax? Again, Sir, was not his precursor, the McDermott, a singer of war songs before the Lord (Jingo)? Am I to be asked to believe that a man of such a name was either a Protestant or a Radical? Many old Tories, Sir, still feel their blood tingle when they remember the stirring strains of the "Roosians shall not have Constantinople". I maintain, Sir, that owing to McDermott's ut "de poitrine" and his soul-inspiring song, more than to anything else, we owe it, that Byzantium still remains under the benign sway of the much maligned Abdul Hamed. But, Sir, there is more. Were, I ask, all the patriots, who with whisky, rattles, ticklers, Union Jacks and patriotic melody so nobly celebrated the relief of Mafeking (I am uncertain about the number of "f's" that this word should contain) all Protestants or Radicals? Perish the thought. I know, Sir, writing from my quiet manufacturing parish in Birmingham, that many a Tory, not a few Catholics, and numberless Anglicans, helped to swell the pæans of triumphs upon that noble night. The War Song, Sir, is a national, nay an imperial possession. Conceived in the recesses of the Matoppo Hills, filtered through Johannesburg, by way of Mark Lane and Capel Court, it has gradually become British. When I say British I think I say enough to include all sorts, all faiths, all colours and every kind of music over which our proud banner floats. Let our Opera become an Exeter Hall, Sir, let violins, oboes, psalteries, pianolas, and all kinds of instruments, both brass and wood wind, perish; but leave us, Sir, our Jew's harp, and our war songs; let them not be the exclusive property, I beg, of one sect or of one faith, and all will be well with the land which we love.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
A CATHOLIC TORY.

REVIEWS.

THE GOOD TASTE OF AN AMERICAN MINISTER.

"The New American Navy." By John D. Long. London: Grant Richards. 1904. 21s. net.

IT was not long ago that President Roosevelt expressed an opinion that the United States must dominate the Pacific and be able to cope with any great Power which may throw off the restraints of international morality. His people are doubtless of the same way of thinking—hence the rapid growth of the United States navy which no Englishman can rejoice at in view of the interference in Spanish affairs, the Venezuelan business and the Alaskan Boundary Commission farce. Mr. Long writes of the "generous intervention" of the United States in 1898 and asserts that "looking back over the negotiations with Spain one cannot but remark the high plane upon which they were placed: how McKinley made humanity and civilisation with protection of American interests the cardinal principles of his policy". Protection of American interests—there the cloven hoof peeps out and helps us to a definition by which international immorality is found to mean interference with the interests of the United States. If we are wrong the error must be laid to the strange way in which language transplanted to a new soil is apt to develop on lines of its own. Mr. Long gives us many opportunities of observing how words which sound English may not be so really: such a sentence as "the Colt gun was turned on them but failed to function", is a case in point: though the meaning here is fairly clear neither dictionary nor grammar suffices to translate the following passage which is offered us as a literary sample of official bickering: "Your recommendations are as inconsistent with your ignoring of the suggestion to withdraw the same as is your assumption of a 'best way to handle' these surveys antagonistic to simple bureau duties. The ostentatious display of a banner marked 'despatch' may obtain the confidence of the unversed but it is not the proof of ability to secure that desideratum which is required to satisfy expert criticism".

The title, "The New American Navy", raised some hope that the ex-Secretary of the Navy of the North American power commonly known to the world as the United States might have something to tell us which we had not heard before. It is not official reticence or etiquette which can have stayed his hand since he does not hesitate to enlarge on the Sampson-Schley incident and the differences between Sampson and Shafter or fail to add his own comments thereon, although the proceedings which led up to them occurred during his own tenure of office and Schley was a man of his own selection. He gives a belated and diffuse account of the Spanish American War written in a partisan spirit which adds nothing to our sum of knowledge on the subject. We think United States naval officers will be the last to thank him for the nauseous praise lavished upon them for not failing to do their duty when called upon to fight for their country—that is what they are paid for; but Mr. Long evidently does not understand the simple sailor mind, and therefore gushes thus: "Full of patriotism and from infancy inspired at hearth and school by the recital of the glorious deeds of the past, American seamen could be depended upon to do their best and to flinch from no service for the honour of the flag". From which it may be gathered there is something to be said for the introduction of fiction into our own elementary schools. We must alter our belief that the Spanish American War, however momentous in its consequences and strategical aspect, was a very small affair, for it literally spawned "extraordinary" heroes, the United States Navy alone producing ten. There are degrees of "extraordinary heroism", it seems, for we notice an ensign received ten numbers towards promotion for "extraordinary heroism" in acting as a spy in Europe. He was "slim" enough to make use of an unsuspecting British consul to forward his plan of espionage—whilst a paymaster got only one mark, the "extraordinary heroism" in his case being the undertaking of a "perilous voyage from Hong Kong

to Mirs Bay in small steam launch April 26, 1898, to aid in expediting the departure of American squadron from Manila Bay." One wonders how many marks Cervera, Montojo and their comrades would have earned weighed in the same scale. We do not complain of Mr. Long for accepting the verdict of the inquiry instituted to explain the loss of the "Maine" but what are we to think of the morality which refused Spain an independent investigation? Nothing in the evidence adduced was inconsistent with the theory of an internal explosion of magazines; the case of the "Dotterel" was at the time in everybody's mind and since the "Maine" was lost a British man-of-war has had a further experience in the spontaneous combustion of certain highly-tempered steel shells. At the outbreak of the war Spain's naval strength compared with that of the States was in the proportion of 2 to 3, she had to wage war forty times further from a base than her adversary. She was wanting in guns, ammunition and torpedoes for her ships, some of which were supposed to steam 21 knots but could only do 13. The end was a foregone conclusion. Admiral Colomb, a scientific and impartial observer, was content to say that at the Philippines the Spanish forces were so inferior to those of Dewey that Montojo decided to await attack under cover of the forts at Cavite; that the Southern Channel through which Dewey passed, being 5 miles wide, was not easy to defend by batteries or mines and that in the actual attack the American ships were scarcely affected by the Spanish fire; but such a bald statement of facts is not enough for Mr. Long, who though not a professional seaman or strategist gives rein to his fancy thus: "Strategical and tactical blunders by the Spanish Admiral in the far East, the demoralising condition of his command and the promptness, magnificent courage and high efficiency of the officers and men who fought under the Stars and Stripes" served to crush the Spanish squadron in Philippine waters. The voyage of the "Oregon" from San Francisco he describes as "one which has no parallel in history" and enters into particulars of what her captain meant to do, had he by accident met the Spaniard from which he draws the conclusion that if the "Oregon" had met Cervera's fleet "the latter in view of its conditions would very likely have suffered defeat and perhaps annihilation". Cervera is therefore to be congratulated on escaping the fire-eating captain of the "Oregon". To show the spirit animating the crew of the "Marietta" gunboat we are told that two officers off duty condescended to seize wheelbarrows and aid in coaling the ship: what would Mr. Long think if we informed him that British officers have often been known to seize wheelbarrows to help coal ship in peace time for the mere fun of breaking the time record? To make his book heavier—there can be no other object—Mr. Long supplies plenty of padding in the most approved style of journalese of which this is a fair sample. "Sunday July 1898 is a day which will live in the annals of the American Navy. A fog rested over the bay of Santiago: it was the pall which was descending upon the power of Spain in the Indies. Outside when the morning blushed, it disclosed the American ships gently rocking at their blockading positions, their bows in a semicircle pointing each to a narrow orifice through which Cervera was preparing to dash. In bold relief rising from the blue of the ocean was the rugged shore covered, save at the mouth of the harbour, with verdure". It is a startling fact that the shore rises from the ocean, it is another that "all the money disbursed by the department was honestly spent and every purchase made in good faith"; though after all it would be an injustice to consider such a statement as this mere padding—it is padding and something more.

On the whole we like Mr. John D. Long least when he becomes sentimental: he occupies two whole pages in panegyric of President McKinley. "Peace everywhere he sought. How beautifully and successfully he cast—never losing an opportunity—the balm of healing into the wounds of the civil war . . . he strained every effort to avoid war with Spain. . . . Wherever he could put the rosebud of a kind word or act into any hand—and the humbler and needier the quicker—he gave it straight from his own . . . how if we seek the elements of a true hero, he embodied them". Mr. McKinley must have been not only a hero but a bit of a juggler to take the rosebud

of a kind word in his hand. Reading the chapter of personal reminiscences we are as much struck with the secretary's power of sight as with his capacity to chronicle small beer, for we find "the bugle calls, the naval etiquette . . . the music of the bands . . . are pictures not to be forgotten". Who but an American could see music or paint it? The "gaiety and sparkle of the talk" of the gentlemen who between the years 1897 and 1902 formed the Cabinet of the great Republic does not make us particularly desirous of their personal acquaintance if the specimen with which we are provided is an average one. We had heard of General Alger but not in his capacity of humourist; nevertheless there seems no doubt that some future Joe Miller will take him for a model, "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men and there was a kindly laughter in his eye as he joked Secretary Wilson about his grey trousers or referred to my battered silk hat". To borrow an Americanism the General "takes the cake" for sparklets. It may be we have taken Mr. Long too seriously; should such be the case the keen sense of humour he here displays will enable him as one of "the wisest men" to smile at our insular density.

THE SACRUM COMMERCIIUM.

"Sacrum Commercium. The Converse of Francis and his Sons with Holy Poverty." The Temple Classics. London: Dent. 1904. 1s. 6d. net.

THE latest volume of the Temple Classics contains the Latin text of the "Sacrum Commercium" taken from Codex No. 3560 of the Casanatense Library, with a translation into English by Canon H. D. Rawnsley. M. Paul Sabatier contributes an introduction (of which a translation by the late Miss Edith Fisher is also given), and Canon Rawnsley adds an oratorical chapter, which reads like a lecture, entitled "The Lady Poverty and how Saint Francis came to love her". The "Sacrum Commercium", a charmingly simple allegory, telling how Saint Francis of Assisi sought and found the Lady Poverty, was written in July 1227, ten months after the Saint's death. Its authorship is unknown, the once accepted theory that it is by the Blessed John of Parma being now wholly untenable. Père Edouard d'Alençon, in his edition of the Allegory (Rome, 1900), adduces reasons to show that its author might have been Giovanni Parenti, first Minister General of the Order in succession to Saint Francis (1227-1233). But he only advances ingenious hypotheses, and does not claim proof positive. M. Sabatier and Canon Rawnsley, however, without even discussing the point, roundly ascribe the book to Giovanni Parenti. This is disingenuous and misleading, and in view of the capital which M. Sabatier seeks to make out of the authorship, such a proceeding calls for immediate explanation and emendation. Indeed there is much in this little volume which requires explaining and amending. A publisher's note informs us that "M. Paul Sabatier has kindly collated the text with the Codex Casanatensis". Now it is customary to speak of collating one text with another text, but not the same text with itself. What does the note really mean? How did Canon Rawnsley come by his text? Did he copy it himself, or procure a copy, and then have this copy verified by M. Sabatier? This requires explanation, and the fact that Canon Rawnsley has omitted to state that the honour and merit of first publishing the text which he prints belong to Père Edouard d'Alençon seems to us to require not only explanation but apology.

Canon Rawnsley has done his translation, on the whole, admirably well. The "Sacrum Commercium" is already known to English readers in a version entitled "The Lady Poverty" (London, Murray, 1901). Canon Rawnsley's translation seems to us the better, the more accurate, of the two. He has here kept his imagination under control, and has resisted—perhaps too scrupulously—the temptation to improve or remove obscurities. When he errs it is through want of familiarity with the Vulgate and the Liturgy which have been so freely interwoven in the Allegory by its pious author. For instance: he comes across the sentence in chap. ii. "cogitare de illa, frater, sensus est con-

summatus", and translates, "think of her, brother", (a lower-fourth rendering that), adding in a foot-note: "Sensus est consummatus. An evident interpolation of the copyist". It is nothing of the kind, but a quotation from Wisdom vi. 16, and should have been rendered: "To meditate upon her, brother, is perfect understanding". To take an example from the liturgy. The imaginative author applies to the Lady Poverty (chap. xxi.) the familiar words of the collect from the Litany of the Saints, "sicut ei proprium est miserere semper et parcere" (whose property is ever to have mercy and spare), and the translator translates "as it belongeth unto her ever to have compassion and to bestow food" (!). He has presumably misread "parcere" for "pascere", but a reasonable knowledge of the liturgy with which Saint Francis was familiar, nay the recollection of a familiar collect in the Anglican liturgy, would surely have saved him from this droll bêtise. It is a blot upon the book, too, that not a single reference is given to its abounding quotations from Holy Writ, and that the reader is not even made aware of its immense dependence upon this source.

M. Sabatier's contribution to the book (*Les Noces mystiques de S. François avec la Pauvreté*) is a singular performance, thoroughly characteristic of the passion and prejudice which he imports into his estimates of Franciscan history. He can never quite put off the impassioned Huguenot, or if he does, it is only to put on the prejudiced Renanist, and it were difficult to say which of the two is the worse qualified for understanding Saint Francis and the Middle Ages. The Allegory tells in the most transparent fashion of the vicissitudes of Poverty in the Christian Commonwealth, and more especially in the Religious life: Francis comes: and Poverty is restored to her true dignity. That is about the whole story. But when the Lady Poverty is discoursing of the relaxation of the Monastic life in the past, M. Sabatier sees in her words allusions to disorders among the Franciscans of 1227, written, mark, by their Minister General (hence the importance of ascribing the work to Giovanni Parenti). In chap. xviii. the Lady Poverty draws a picture of the Religious life at its lowest ebb, and in this M. Sabatier sees "une description de la conduite des frères relâchés vers 1227 dont les historiens futurs devront tenir grande compte" (p. xi). Poor history, if it be written by historians who could take such a cue. There is not the faintest, not the remotest, allusion to Friars Minor in the Lady Poverty's speech, as is abundantly clear from chap. xix. in which, by contrast with other Religious, she blesses and commends them. The Allegory begins with the pursuit and ends with the finding of Poverty by St. Francis and his Companions; the corrupt past is but the foil to the regenerated present; and nowhere is there a hint of any fact or condition of things after the year 1209.

M. Sabatier is hard put to it to prove his point. He produces but one bit of evidence that could carry any weight, and that breaks down completely under the most superficial examination. In his introduction he quotes the Lady Poverty (chap. xi) as speaking of certain Religious "qui font de la mendicité une œuvre pie". Of course if any such expression existed in the "Sacrum commercium" he proves his point: it could only refer to Franciscans as they were the first of the mendicant Religious. But on turning to the text what do we find? "Existimantes quaestum esse pietatem", a quotation from 1 Tim. vi. 5, signifying "supposing gain to be godliness". There is not a word about begging. And note, what is odd, and requires explanation, that the words *quaestum esse pietatem* are printed in italics in the Latin text. Why? Did this occur in the process of "collation"? With any object? To call the attention, perhaps, of the translator to this important reference to begging? If so it failed of its effect; master and disciple are at loggerheads here, for Canon Rawnsley translates correctly enough "thinking gain to be godliness". What then, speaking quite dispassionately, are we to think of this grave error which would have completely sealed up the eyes of the unwary general reader? It cannot be that so diligent and persistent a student of the Middle Ages is ignorant of the Vulgate, or that he here takes "quaestum" to mean begging, or that he was unaware that the Lady Poverty was quoting from the Epistle to Timothy. If it is not and cannot be ignorance,

then it surely is and must be a characteristic example of how the force of passion and prejudice can transform history from what it is into the fanciful and purely subjective imaginings of a heated and perverted brain.

In one thing M. Sabatier has all our sympathy: the French of his introduction has been abominably printed. It abounds in faults of every kind, of punctuation, of accent, of spelling, and it is quite obvious that the proofs were never seen through the press by a person acquainted with the French language. Here again we have more matter for explanation and apology. Indeed the trail of the sloven is conspicuous in the book, which needs thorough revision before it can rightly do honour to the series to which it belongs.

A PHILISTINE ON THE NILE DAM.

"The Binding of the Nile and the New Soudan." By the Hon. Sidney Peel. London: Arnold. 1904. 12s. 6d.

MR. PEEL laments that, owing to the opposition of the archaeologists and antiquaries, who raised a "terrible hub-bub" at what he euphemistically calls the "temporary submersions every year of the famous Temple of Isis, Pharaoh's Bed and other monuments", the Dam is not what it should be. He omits to say what this "temporary submersion" would mean, but he exults in the fact that the engineers carried the day and that they "saved the Dam, but the original design was lost and the Dam of to-day is 33 feet lower than it ought to have been". Unfortunately, it is still high enough to cause the Temple to be flooded knee deep at high Nile, as a recent visitor to Philae testifies. What this must eventually mean to the Temple, even if the Dam be not raised higher, we will let Mr. Peel himself describe. Talking of the present Dam and its unsightliness, due to "the gallows-like arms of the drawbridge, hideous in appearance, but a marvel of mechanical ingenuity", he proceeds to describe how "the hard gray colour of the granite strengthens the general impression, though in time every part exposed to the action of the water will be coated with the shining black varnish which the Nile mud always lays on granite and it will look exactly the same as the natural bed of the stream". True it is that Pharaoh's Bed is not of granite but it is founded and built upon and into granite and its "temporary submersion every year", though now only for a few feet at the base, will not improve the appearance of the Temple. Mr. Peel cheerfully adds "between half drowned and wholly drowned there is not much difference in the case of an island (mark the words applied to this unique marvel of the ancient world!) certainly not a difference worth fighting for, and the Dam will be raised to its full height perhaps as soon as Egypt is ready for the extra water". Mr. Peel does not hide his hope and conviction that the "total immersion" of Philae is merely a question of time. Describing the construction of the Dam he bluntly remarks, "The top of the wall runs in a simple unbroken level . . . the wall simply leaves off because its builders thought it high enough for the present". So also is the supply of water held up "enough for the present" in that, in conjunction with the Assuan barrage, it provides more than can at present be disposed of in Lower Egypt.

It is in the interests of the unborn generations of wretched low-brained fellahen, that extraordinarily debased race of men, to quote Mr. Peel, with "absolutely dull impassive features" and "with no thoughts beyond the black soil and the water of Egypt", that we are reviled for not destroying Philae and everything else that may interfere with the possible irrigation wants of a future generation. It was once our privilege to live alone for nearly two weeks in a small tent on the Nile bank opposite this marvellous and certainly most beautifully situated Temple of ancient Egypt. It was during the fevered preparations for the attempt to relieve Khartoum and rescue General Gordon, and despite the incessant work from dawn to dark and the whirl of subsequent events amid the desperate fighting in the Bayuda Desert and adventures on the Nile beyond, the memory of those nights at Philae with its beautiful

columns silhouetted against the clear moonlit sky above the desert is one that, even after a lapse of 20 years, is more insistent on the memory than all else that followed.

We must congratulate Mr. Peel on his excellent and clear accounts of the construction of the barrages, of the intricacies of the various systems of irrigation and a host of other interesting problems affecting the welfare of Egypt. The very magnitude of some of these is almost overwhelming; for example, take the creation of inexhaustible reservoirs in the very heart of central Africa by regulating the outflow of the Great Lakes at the sources of the Nile, for the benefit not only of Egypt but of the vast territories South and East of Khartoum, all of which cry alike for water. Nor are those problems mere mathematical phantasies; able and scientific Englishmen have been engaged for years past, in fact ever since the reconquest of the Sudan made it possible to travel in those remote regions, in studying these questions: the results of their labours are now given.

The second part of the book deals with "The New Soudan" and for the first time those who are interested in the establishment of the Gordon College at Khartoum will find a full account of its progress and possibilities. If we except Mr. Peel's Philistine indifference to Philae, we may admit that he has produced an interesting and even an important book.

THE COLLECTOR IN GUIANA.

"A Naturalist in the Guianas." By Eugene André. With a preface by Dr. J. Scott Keltie. London: Smith, Elder. 1904. 14s. net.

HERE is a work which promises very great things; a handsome, well printed and well illustrated volume, containing the story of the author's adventures in one of the most fascinating regions of the earth. This is that Guiana which has attracted so many adventurous spirits from our shores since the time of Elizabeth. They were the first seekers of the shining metal in a land where every common stone had a complexion of gold or silver and about which many marvellous myths had obtained credence. Raleigh no doubt believed in the existence of Manoa. "The common soldier shall here fight for gold," he wrote, "and pay himself instead of pence with plates of half a foot broad, whereas he breaketh his bones in other wars for provant and penury. Those commanders and chieftains, that shoot at honour and abundance, shall find there more rich and beautiful cities, more temples adorned with golden images, more sepulchres filled with treasure, than either Cortez found in Mexico, or Pizarro in Peru; and the shining glory of this conquest will eclipse all those so far extended beams of the Spanish nation." But gold was not its sole attraction. "There is no country," he continues, "which yieldeth more pleasure to the inhabitants, either for those common delights of hunting, hawking, fishing, fowling, and the rest, than Guiana doth. It hath so many plains, clear rivers, abundance of pheasants, partridges, quails, rails, cranes, herons, and all other fowl; deer of all sorts, porks, hares, lions, tigers, leopards, and divers other sorts of beasts, either for chase or food."

These secondary delights (if for hunter we may read naturalist) have been the chief incentive of our modern explorers. The many swift rivers, the mysterious mountains, of which Roraima is the type, the savannahs and forests, where there are "flowers and trees of that variety as were sufficient to make ten volumes of herbals"; and above all the abounding animal life, infinite in form and of surpassing lustre. Bushmaster, cayman, anaconda; curassows, organ-bird, campanero, scarlet ibis, flame-coloured cock-of-the-rock; anta and river-cow; the red howler and spotted jaguar—their very names are a delight. These, and the many marvellous vegetable forms, were more than gold and precious stones to Waterton and to other wanderers in this wilderness who came after him—C. Barrington Brown, Boddam-Whetham, Im Thurn, and Rodway, who albeit they could not, in writing, equal his power and brilliance were yet his worthy successors.

The author of the volume before us is not of this com-

pany: the laudatory preface contributed by Dr. Scott Keltie forces us to speak clearly on this point. He assures us that the book is important and interesting; that no preface is needed to proclaim its merits; that the author is still more a naturalist than a geographer; and he adds that he is well qualified to tell the fascinating story of wild life in regions such as these. We do not agree. A naturalist may be, he often is, a collector—Wallace and Bates are notable examples; but a collector is not necessarily a naturalist. It is not like a naturalist in a neotropical district to write vaguely of "a species of jack-rabbit", "a large quail", "a sort of partridge". Nor would a naturalist speak of frogs as reptiles, of monkeys as our "blood-relations", or of "gnats or sandflies and mosquitoes"; nor would he describe as a "mosquito" the insect with an annoying habit of darting at his face and cutting out a circular bit of skin and flesh and flying off to consume it at leisure to return presently for another morsel.

It is true that good informative books on wild life have been produced by writers who were not, who never called themselves, naturalists. They had that which stood them in place of scientific knowledge and the love of research—a keen sympathy for life in all its forms, from man to insect. Our author is without this feeling, or at all events has failed to express it. He is an orchid-hunter and collector of birds and butterflies: life-habits, the wonder and mystery of life, animal and vegetable, of innumerable lives that in their interdependence are like one life, the little mind that dwells behind the feathers and in the shining insect, do not interest him. When he meets with larger animals, the tapir and great anteater, he regards them as merely so much food. There is no feeling of kinship, no pang of regret. If by chance he stumbles upon some rare and striking fact, as for instance that of the Indians' feeling concerning the coral-snake, it is a diamond which he has turned up in his search for something else and it is of no value to him.

On account of this cold and incurious temper the book, so far as it is a story of wild life, is indeed a poor one. The interesting part, from page 197 to the end of the volume, is a narrative of the author's ascent of the Caura river. He was warned by his Indians that the rainy season would make the falls impassable on the return of the expedition, which would mean death from starvation; but though he realised that there was reason in their arguments he determined to make the attempt. The Indians wisely refused to go with him, but he succeeded in hiring some Venezuelans, and with fourteen men and three boats embarked in February 1901, on what must be described as a foolhardy adventure. The result was disastrous; the big boat was wrecked in the rapids, and the collections, photographs, note-books, with most of the clothing and provisions, were lost. The guide or pilot went mad and died, and eventually the party divided. Mr. André and seven of his men took the remaining boat and finally reached the settlement of La Prision, the other six men having been left to cut their way as best they could through the jungle. Doubtless they perished; at any rate they were never heard of after. It is a melancholy story, and we are surprised at the author's courage in telling it.

OF USES AND OF NO USE.

"The Church of our Fathers." By Daniel Rock. Edited by G. W. Hart and W. H. Frere. 4 vols. London: Hodges. 1903-4. £2 8s.

IN no department of ecclesiastical knowledge has greater progress been made of late years than in the history of worship. Scholarship of a very high order has been liberally devoted to the study of liturgies, and with important results. The resemblances and differences in their forms of prayer have cast light upon the relations between the various churches, and the growth and change of doctrine have been illustrated by phrases which have long survived even the memory of the purpose with which they were originally devised. The old service books have been made to live again, and the study of them has been raised from the level of anti-

quarianism to that of serious history. The ceremonies and accessories of worship have shared, in their measure, in the same increase of significance, though we owe more in regard to them to the zeal of the antiquaries than to the researches of more ambitious students. Yet even here the influence of the historians has been felt, and in England that especially of Bishop Stubbs, with his emphatic and often repeated protest against the notion that the Reformation can be taken as in any serious sense the starting-point of a new period in history. But great as has been the increase of our knowledge of the Middle Ages, it has unhappily not been widely diffused. While every volume in such series as the "Archæologia" has given precision to some points that before were obscure, the majority even of those who are sincerely interested in the antiquities of our Church have been content to repeat the vague or inaccurate explanations that were current in the past. If we were conducted by one of its dignitaries over any of our Cathedrals, it is quite probable that we should receive information as obsolete as would be that of an electrician who retailed to us the doctrine of Faraday or Davy.

Dr. Rock, whose volumes have been handsomely reprinted—we can hardly say edited—by Mr. Hart and Mr. Frere, has a very honourable place among English antiquaries. He was a priest of the Roman Communion, of comfortable private means, who devoted himself with sincere but uncritical zeal to the study of mediæval Church usages in England. He was a diligent collector of antiquities, and an authority upon the minor arts which are illustrated at South Kensington; he was, indeed, a useful member of the Council of that Museum. Such knowledge as his could not be acquired without considerable ability as well as indefatigable industry, and it is impossible to survey his volumes without respect for the writer's extent of reading and for the happy way in which he frequently brings his knowledge to bear upon points of difficulty. But he labours under serious disadvantages. His style is that which was traditional in his communion before Newman brought literary skill, among other gifts, to his new associates. It is tedious, clumsy and verbose. And the traditional style is accompanied by the traditional erudition of his day and Church. We cannot blame him that he took for granted what he found in his text-books; no ordinary man can examine the foundations and at the same time be raising a laborious superstructure upon them. But it is strange to read at the present day of the English Church as founded by King Lucius and a Pope named Eleutherius, and to see the false Ingulf quoted without suspicion. Dr. Rock no more thought of verifying such history than of doubting the characteristic doctrines of his Church, on which he expatiates on a manner half expository, half controversial and wholly unsuitable in a treatise on the antiquities of ritual.

But his details, where he has employed his own eyes and his own reading, are as trustworthy as they are interesting, and he may be taken as a safe guide in the methods of research. It is remarkable, for instance, how often some passage of a mediæval writer, which seems at first sight to be mere vague rhetoric, gives under his treatment a definite and important meaning. Yet since he was, at any rate in regard to English antiquities, in great measure a pioneer, there are many errors in his work, which later workers have corrected, as Dr. Rock no doubt would himself have done had he lived to profit by the increase of knowledge. He might perhaps, though the vivacity of his work would have been impaired by the change, have reconciled himself to the Renaissance character of many of the accessories of worship in his Church, and have come to see beauty in the Belgian or French vestments and utensils against which his polemic is constantly directed. At any rate he must have recognised, if he pushed his inquiries so far, that the "Gothic" and old English uses which he advocates are more perfectly exemplified in some churches of our Communion than in any of his own; perhaps, indeed, more perfectly than was ever the case in the Middle Ages.

The influence of Dr. Rock has, in fact, been greater in the English Church than in that to which, in spite of his protests against its departures from antiquity, he was heartily devoted. It is true that there has been, and still is, in some of our churches which aim at the

complete revival of the older ritual a thoughtless imitation of modern and tasteless continental usage. But sounder judgment is by degrees prevailing, and nothing would serve better to promote it than a compact and scholarly statement of the facts at present known. The time has come when such a work might be written; there cannot be much to be added to our knowledge nor many more errors to be corrected, and competent scholars could be found to undertake the task. It is to be lamented that the editors, who are themselves thoroughly able to perform the work, should have preferred to block the way by throwing these volumes upon the market. They have revised the references and improved the illustrations, but their perfunctory appendix is rather irritating than helpful. They pick out a few of the points in which Rock is wrong, but they do little or nothing to correct or supplement him. Such work is no more worthy of them or of the subject than a reprint of one of Dibdin's bibliographical books would have been of Mr. Proctor. And we cannot but think that in issuing it they have been guilty of a grave indiscretion. The revival of the religious life, in the narrower sense, has to overcome prejudices in our Church. Valuable as the work of the Mirfield Community, to which the editors belong, undoubtedly is, there are reasons both general and special why it should scrupulously insist upon its consistently Anglican position. Wisdom is not shown when its members volunteer to edit a work which is frankly Roman, and which has no special merit to compensate them for the somewhat humiliating and even compromising position in which they are placed by Dr. Rock's language. We are convinced that they no more pledge themselves to his characteristic doctrine than to his story about King Lucius. But they have allowed themselves no opportunity of telling us so, and we are constrained to wish that they had followed the example of the Benedictines of Downside. Those excellent scholars, according to the notice of Dr. Rock in the "Dictionary of National Biography", had purposed to re-issue his work. They have wisely refrained, and they are more than human if they have not been gently amused at the predicament of their English imitators.

THE MAKINGS OF ENGLISH EDUCATION.

"The Progress of Education in England." By J. S. G. de Montmorency. London: Knight. 1904. 5s. net.

THE parish school in England goes back probably as far as the end of the eighth century. That it was not merely regarded as a nursery for the priesthood is plain from a canon of 960 cited in Mr. de Montmorency's interesting but unequal "Progress of Education in England", which provided "that the priest diligently instruct the youths and dispose them to trades, that they may have a support to the Church". The allusion to trades is very significant and seems to suggest that even in those days there was a danger of creating a literary proletariat. Higher education had already come into the country first from Ireland and then from Rome. The Norman conquest caused a considerable set back, but the schoolmaster's trade still went on though naturally Norman French became the vernacular of the school. The teacher was not necessarily in orders as may be seen from Canon VIII. of the General Council at Westminster in which it was laid down that schoolmasters were to pay nothing for their licence to teach. Meanwhile a system of grammar schools began to grow up all over the country and the great university movement in France had its counterpart at Oxford. The Black Death destroyed the supremacy of French in the schools and the rise of the Lollards gave a further impetus to the study of English. The reign of Henry VIII. was marked on the one hand by the arrival of the new learning and on the other by the wanton destruction of many educational institutes which the grammar schools of Henry VIII., Edward VI. and Elizabeth only partially replaced. Undoubtedly those who suffered most were the poorer classes. The Puritans, who did so much for education in America, did but little in England and that little was stopped by the Caroline legislation. It was not till the beginning of the eighteenth century that something was done by the creation of charity schools

by the clergy. In the heyday of their fame they contained no less than 26,000 children. Unfortunately the movement encountered opposition from those who should have been its natural supporters. The schools gradually decayed. The eighteenth century represents in some ways not only the nadir of elementary but of secondary and university education.

The renaissance of elementary education dates from the beginning of the nineteenth century. The new revival was preceded by the Sunday School movement of Robert Raikes which in 1834 numbered no fewer than 1,500,000 scholars under 160,000 voluntary teachers. Magnificent as an index of the spiritual vitality of the nation, it could not be expected to supply adequately the needs of lay education. These were met to a certain extent by the efforts of the National Society and the British and Foreign School Society. Both were worked under the monitorial system which largely contributed to the woodenness of the methods which until recently has pervaded primary education. What could better indicate the triumph of rote and unintelligent repetition than Dr. Bell's dictum? "Give me 24 pupils to-day, and I will give you 24 teachers to-morrow." The influence of the State has until recently been likewise uninspiring. Its earliest grants were only to be applied to bricks and mortar. The Revised Code of Mr. Lowe with its elaborate system of payment by results degraded its inspectors into mere auditors and the teachers into mere drill-sergeants whose aim was to reduce the awkward squad of duffers to the narrowest dimensions. The teacher is or ought to be the "vivida vis" of the school, yet until a couple of years ago the State had never faced the question of an adequate supply of teachers and even now it has shuffled it off on to the localities. Still there has been progress. The Act of 1870 provided for a complete supply of elementary education, the Act of 1876 introduced compulsion. More recently we have seen the advent of free education and the gradual elimination of the vicious system of payment by results. And lastly the code of the present year has at length placed national education on a scientific and intelligible basis.

In the sphere of higher education progress has been marked by internal reform of the endowed schools, by the spread of technical education, by the great extension given to women's education, almost ignored by Mr. de Montmorency, and by the recognition of secondary education as a definite function of local government. The progress in University education is represented by the abolition of Oxford and Cambridge as close boroughs, by the revival of learning that has taken place in their midst and by the rise of the new local Universities. Though we are still behind some nations in completeness of organisation, if we consider the progress we have made during the last century, the outlook may be pronounced as fairly encouraging.

FIRESIDE THUNDER.

"China from Within." By A. Davenport. London: Unwin. 1904. 6s.

MR. DAVENPORT claims in this book, the title of which, by the way, has already been appropriated by the unspeakable missionary, to dispose of the "disgraceful charges" brought against the British Government by the anti-opium societies. He also claims to have proved that the disturbances, murders and massacres which dog the footsteps of all missionaries, Protestant and Roman Catholic, are due to the arrogant conduct and encroaching spirit of self-sufficient clerics who have had the audacity to intrude themselves and their patronising teaching into countries where they are unwelcome, to interfere with the politics and religious beliefs of well-disposed and civilised people and to attempt the conversion of those already converted, such as Abyssinians, Turks, Buddhists and others, sheltering themselves in times of danger behind treaties and gunboats.

We will make Mr. Davenport a present of the opium question. He brings unnecessarily heavy guns to bear on a small body of enthusiasts whose opinions on the morality of the share taken by the Indian Government

in the opium trade of China have often been controverted by sober-minded and less vituperative critics; but surely he goes too far when he suggests that opium is a blessing rather than a curse to its consumers.

It is with regard to the missionary question that Mr. Davenport's book is, to put it mildly, misleading. He professes to deal with the Chinese aspect of this question and the iniquities of the missionaries in that country, but China, from within or from without, occupies comparatively few pages of this discursive volume. He surveys the missionary question literally from China to Peru, taking the reader a tour through Turkey, Asia Minor, South Africa, Abyssinia and America, and harks back to the creation, touching on the "slight defects in the cosmogony of Genesis", the ridiculously local character of the Flood, certain episodes in the life of the Wife of Moses and the matrimonial experiences of Solomon. He has a good deal to say about the history of the Jews and is very severe upon Nehemiah whom he denounces as a blind, fanatical and self-appointed missionary, putting him in the same category with the arm-chair directors in London of the various missionary societies.

Mr. Davenport apparently subscribes to two Chinese missionary publications which he must know perfectly well record the doings of the members of a society who, though thoroughly in earnest, have no claim to a high standard of education. It is from these two periodicals, with a few exceptions, that he attempts to substantiate his charges against missionaries in China. Nothing is easier than to select extracts from somewhat foolish and tactless letters and to call all missionaries fools because some are indiscreet, but it is distinctly unfair to reproduce a scurrilous article from a French periodical bringing charges against Protestant ladies which he has certainly not verified. Granted that all missionaries are not discreet, Mr. Davenport might surely have found something to place on the credit side of the account. It would be comparatively easy to answer most of his charges if his book were likely to do the slightest harm to the Societies that have incurred his anger, but, as it is, his denunciations will only find favour with those people whose benefactions have not done much hitherto to further missionary enterprise.

Mr. Davenport defines fanaticism to be an exalted state of mind in which a person is affected by an ill-regulated and excessive enthusiasm which requires to be kindly but firmly dealt with. We entirely agree with him on this point.

MR. MALLOCK'S LATEST.

"The Veil of the Temple." By W. H. Mallock. London: Murray. 1904. 6s.

A SAVING grace of humour would have prevented Mr. Mallock from writing this book or, at any rate, from presenting it to the world in the form he has chosen. It is possible to deal with religion and philosophy with absolute propriety in a novel. But we demand from writers who introduce such subjects into a work of fiction that they shall observe a sense of the fitting. In his latest book Mr. Mallock may be acquitted at once of intentional irreverence, but he cannot be held guiltless of a lack of artistic perception. His is neither a good novel nor a convincing treatise. Starting with the intention of translating the language of the philosopher and the preacher "into the ordinary language of men and women of the world", he has given us a book whose manner is sufficient to counteract any impression of genuineness that might be conveyed by the matter. It is impossible to conceive that those who are sincerely interested in the weighty subjects with which the author attempts to grapple can be otherwise than disgusted with the atmosphere with which he surrounds them. Returning to the setting of "The New Republic" Mr. Mallock introduces a "smart" country house party who amid surroundings, on the luxury of which the author lingers lovingly, discuss religion in the intervals of flirtation and scandal-mongering. The sense of sex is very prominent in all Mr. Mallock's books and he leaves an unpleasant taste in the mouth when he writes of women. Interspersed with the gravest discussions are little touches which,

coming in such a context, are most offensive. We can forgive, although we cannot admire, the reference to the lady who in the middle of the Bishop's sermon turned to see if the man behind her was impressed by her white, shapely shoulders, and to another who acknowledged a man's compliment "by an adroit pressure of the hand and hoped that at divine service they might sing together out of the same hymn-book". Cheap though these flippancies may be they have not the unpardonable suggestiveness of the following passage which burlesques the devotions of a Ritualistic priest. "Mrs. Jefferies who was much moved brought her drooping head so near to the Father's shoulder that two precious tears were left on his sacred garment; and with reverent solicitude having then helped him to walk she left behind her in the vestry a strong smell of Parma violets." The "humour" of this is on a par with the following comment on an unfaithful wife. "It was bad enough for Agatha Craydon to lose her brilliant complexion, but it was much worse for all when we found it on his shoulder". Of like kind is the remark of a lady—one of the most earnest of the truth-seekers—in the midst of a discussion on the mystery of the Incarnation: "I was told by a friend to read Dr. Sanday's writings as he put the case for belief in an absolute convincing way. I couldn't do so at the moment because I had to go to Ascot, but . . ." The gratuitous introduction of conversations like these which neither enliven the story nor aid the argument combine to impress one with the conviction that the author may not be a safer guide in matters of religion than in matters of taste.

"Is this speculative dissatisfaction more than a play-thing?" asks one of the characters in the book and the reader who is misled by Mr. Mallock's tone of flippancy may repeat the query. But although Mr. Mallock lays himself open to misunderstanding the reader of discernment will be able to penetrate below the surface of the blemishes. He will recognise that the author cares really very deeply about the matters on which he writes, and will find in these attempts at humour by a humour-lacking man a real note of pathos. It is as though Mr. Mallock regarded us all as little children who must have jam with their powder. "I have a new message for the world"—he seems to say—"I wish to present to you who are unsettled by the smatterings of science you have picked up 'Religion as a credible doctrine'. You will not listen to me if I write of these things learnedly and gravely, so I will put them all into a nice little story containing real live men and women, and you will be amused while you are being elevated." Mr. Mallock takes the attitude of the thoughtful man of the day who sees the old creeds and forms of belief crumbling about him and who yet inclines to the theistic view. Is it possible for him to find a religion which he can accept by "an act which is at once an act of belief, of common sense and of will".

In destructive criticism Mr. Mallock is at his best. He shows a sound appreciation of the causes which are transforming our beliefs and rendering many of them impossible. He feels the tyranny of science for those who desire to follow its arguments whithersoever they lead. But by a synthesis of contradictions these beliefs must somehow be retained because without them life becomes impossible. Science turns the whole structure of civilisation to ashes whereas religion "brings the ashes to life". "A man's belief in his immortality makes existence great again; his belief in his will makes him strong again; and his belief in the God of either wisdom, beauty or holiness gives him an open top to his chimney which enables a draught to form itself and the dying fire to burn". It is impossible for a man to reconcile science and religion unless he "misconceives or ignores everything that science teaches". The only way is to abandon altogether the method of direct attack, and to find the solution in quite another direction. And this is the interesting and ingenious manner in which Mr. Mallock solves his problem: "Science itself not only starts with an assumption which neither the experience of the senses nor the logical intellect can justify—namely the existence of the external world—but leads us to a conclusion which this same logical intellect is at once compelled to accept, and is yet unable to tolerate. Science compels us to accept what are for the intellect contradictions. Well, if this holds good

with regards to things as they were, why may it not hold good equally with regard to things as they are? If we find any good reason for assenting to the doctrines of religion, though these are absolutely contradicted by the detailed demonstrations of science, we do no more violence to our intellect by simultaneously accepting both, than we do by accepting the demonstrations of science itself, which have their root in contradiction, equally, or even more, unmanageable". Such an attitude as here expressed has, after all much in common with the "I-believe-because-it-is-impossible" principle on which many of the devout have received the divine paradoxes and mysteries of their religion.

NOVELS.

"Daughters of Nijo." By Onoto Watanna. London: Macmillan. 1904. 6s.

Chronological accuracy is not, of course, to be looked for in a work of this description, which is supposed to relate to a transition period of Japanese history when the old customs were giving place to new. One of Prince Nijo's daughters betrayed a leaning towards low-necked dresses and high-heeled shoes. The other, and more amiable of the pair, clung consistently to kimonos and sandals. Both were guilty of extraordinary breaches of Japanese etiquette, but this fact does not necessarily make the story unreadable. Both sprinkle their talk with Americanisms. Still, as Commodore Perry "discovered" Japan in 1853 it is but natural, perhaps, that the feelings of modern Japanese should be expressed in some degree in American fashion. And when the lady Masago prefaces her remarks here and there with the ejaculation "Shaka!" it is to be understood, no doubt, that this is the Japanese equivalent of

(Continued on page 792.)

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INVESTED FUNDS - - - £12,666,666.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

NET FIRE PREMIUMS for the Year £2,848,340

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

NEW LIFE POLICIES issued during the Year for £1,374,378

NET LIFE PREMIUMS for the Year £54,139

INCOME £3,986,055.

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CAPITAL PAID UP £ 391,887

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SUPERANNUATION FUND 56,170

FIRE RESERVE FUNDS, including Balance of PROFIT and LOSS 3,535,750

£12,666,666

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Year ended	Premiums.	Increase.
1898	£233,241	—
1903	£469,502	£136,261

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"Great Scott!" Shaka once meant Buddha, and Japanese ladies deemed the name too sacred to be lightly spoken. But Masago, apparently, had no such scruples. It is to be hoped, for the sake of Japan, that the portrait, as presented, is not a faithful one. Of the other lady, the Princess Sado-ko, it may be said that she less grievously offends against the canons of Japanese good taste, and has a praiseworthy disposition to wed the "artist-man" she loves, at the sacrifice of rank and station. It is this which leads her to change places with Masago, who, on marrying Prince Komatsu under false pretences, contrives, by what must be considered amazing good fortune, to escape detection. Apart from its glaring inconsistencies, and here and there a blunder so outrageous as to suggest that the author must have been away from Japan long enough to forget things, such as the scene wherein a Japanese duchess is seen "pulling the sleeve" of the artist's "hakama", that is, his loose trousers or divided skirt—a garment which it is needless to remark is sleeveless—the tale is prettily told, with a good eye to dramatic effect, and is suitably illustrated by Japanese pictures.

"The Kingdom of Twilight." By Forrest Reid. London: Unwin. 1904. 6s.

This is a new volume of "The First Novel Library" in which the publisher presents the work of writers in whom he recognises qualities which promise either literary success or popularity. If "The Kingdom of Twilight" should attain popularity it would be less for any literary excellence than for a certain touch of decadence which is rather too crudely marked on the pages. The hero of the story is given to reading all manner of French books, revelling in those which deal chiefly with "the gloom and sorrow, the cruelty and lust of the world"; the author gives us a list of works which this same hero read, "but from these he passed to books, which, in his present state of mind and body, are absolutely dangerous—books such as 'Catulle Mendès'!" It was Carlyle who declared that his wife read through one of Browning's most talked of poems "without being able to make out whether Sordello was a man, or a city, or a book"; Mr. Forrest Reid seems quite sure that "Catulle Mendès" is a book. "The Kingdom of Twilight" is not without promise—of a sort that is, however, by no means rare—but as a performance we find it unreal and uninteresting; the hero, with his strange boyhood, his stupidly marred life, is rarely anything but a lay figure draped in the uncertain attributes of poetry and pessimism, while the manner of presentation of the story is hazy and pretentious.

"Magnus Sinclair." By Howard Pease. Westminster: Constable. 1904. 6s.

Mr. Pease excuses himself for his rash step in writing a Border romance of Cromwellian times on the grounds that, thanks primarily to Carlyle, our views of Cromwell are widely different from those which were held in the days when Scott wrote "Woodstock". The excuse was wholly unnecessary; unnecessary, too, was it to add to the romance close upon twenty pages of historical notes. The story is a pleasant one, full of exciting episodes, fightings and narrow escapes, heroisms and treacheries—including a brave incident in the shape of a duel between Cromwell and Magnus Sinclair when the latter has been captured by the Parliamentarians; the incident is wholly unconvincing, and many less remarkable ones have "notes" to show that they might have been founded on fact—which shows incidentally the value of such notes. For many Southron readers there is overmuch of dialect—Scottish and Border—but for those who can manage this difficulty without discomfort it may be conceded that Mr. Howard Pease has supplied a hearty and manly romance of adventurings during the time when Charles the Second was striving with his Scottish friends to get into his own again; the story would have gained in briskness however if the author had not such a tendency to allow dialogue to become heavy—so that each man in his turn speaks many paragraphs.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"The International Catalogue of Scientific Literature."

The output of scientific papers is now so great that it has become almost impossible for any worker to keep in touch with all that is published even in his own subject. Things of such importance as Mendel's famous paper on the laws of heredity get buried for thirty years or so, or Mohr's memoir on the "Nature of Heat" which was lost sight of between 1837 and 1864. For many years the Royal Society worked single-handed to make the path of the scientific worker smoother by providing him with a catalogue; up to 1883 this catalogue has been published and though arranged only under authors' names is of the greatest service. But it became clear that the task was beyond the powers of any one society, so after much discussion international co-operation was at last ensured and grants obtained from the various governments; the Royal Society continued to organise the work and has even found the initial capital to start the bureau. The new catalogue, of which volumes are beginning to appear, begins with January 1, 1901, the Royal Society being well forward with a continuation of its old catalogue up to that date; it is arranged under subjects as well as under authors' names. The schedules and indices are published in four languages, English, French, German and Italian, then follow the authors' names with the titles of the papers and a number indicating the subject; lastly the titles are distributed afresh under the various subsections of each subject, which often of course involves much repetition. It is difficult to overestimate the value of the catalogue; the volumes for each subject can be obtained separately and if only they can continue to appear within twelve months of the close of the year with which they deal, they will become an indispensable part of the furniture of any laboratory.

It is not surprising to find Mr. Whympers' "Guide to Zermatt" (Murray, 3s. net) already in its eighth edition. It will probably run through many more editions. There is a good deal of guide-book dry-bones about the little volume, but Mr. Whympers has included some of the best passages from his beautiful book "Scrambles Among the Alps" in this guide. There is an interesting note about Taugwalder and the accident on the Matterhorn in which Michael Croz, Lord Douglas and others lost their lives. Old Taugwalder's replies to the questions put to him in the inquiry have never been made public. Mr. Whympers considers this a grave error on the part of those in authority.—"Mont Blanc," by Edward Whympers (Murray, 3s.) is another guide in the same series. Is it absolutely necessary that guide-books should contain advertisements? Directly the advertisement appears, either at the beginning or the end, the book ceases to be a book—it is "a thing in books' clothing" only.—Miss Jekyll has written a very heavy book on "Old West Surrey" (Longmans, 13s.); so heavy that we want to drop it rather, after holding it up for a few minutes. There are books which would be good substitutes for dumb-bell practice or weight-lifting. "Old West Surrey" is very full of photographs of cottage life and furniture, and there is text to illustrate them. Many of the pictures are interesting and the collection as a whole is remarkable, but there is a little too much detail. There are three illustrations of different patterns of hay rake. The purpose served by pictures such as these is not apparent. The book is pleasantly written, but the smell of the very heavy paper necessary for the photographs is not acceptable.—"A History of the Borough and Town of Calne" (Calne: Heath. 10s. 6d. net) by A. E. W. Marsh is introduced by E. H. Goddard. One is rather surprised to find such slight reference to Lowe in a book on Calne, seeing that the Parliamentary history generally is not overlooked. The antiquities are carefully treated, and there is a chapter on the stone circles and avenues of Avebury, which is in the neighbourhood. Avebury has small fame, so far as the general public is concerned, compared with that of Stonehenge, but its interest and mystery are in fact quite as large. Its origin and the date at which it was made are matters on which no authority of weight since Stukeley's day speaks with decision. One of the few facts about this wonderful place, on which it is safe to speak with decision, is its age compared with that of Stonehenge. All the authorities agree that Avebury is by far the more ancient of the two.—"Confessions of a Journalist" by Chris Healy (Chatto and Windus, 6s.) is light enough chatter about Gladstone, the German Navy, the King and the Prince of Wales, and the way in which an evening paper is produced—one of the most exploited topics for books of this kind. Here Mr. Healy speaks with intimacy. We need not accept his views on the German Navy very seriously. He quotes quite solemnly the statement of "a German General who once told a British Officer that, if war ever broke out between England and Germany, the English people would first know that hostilities had begun by the destruction of Woolwich Arsenal. Of the many thousands in London, a sufficient number would be secretly instructed to assemble at Woolwich, and then make a sudden raid on the Arsenal and destroy it". The proprietors of the London restaurants and hotels would have to employ English or Italian waiters on that evening.

For this Week's Books see page 794.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1836.

London: 1 Moorgate Street. Aberdeen: 1 Union Terrace.

Accumulated Funds, £6,523,000.

The SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Company was held within their house at Aberdeen on Friday, the 10th June, 1904, when the Directors' Report was presented.

The following is a summary of the Report referred to:—

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The PREMIUMS received last year amounted to £1,019,209, showing an increase of £58,843, in comparison with those of the previous year.

The LOSSES amounted to £492,152, or 48.3 per cent. of the Premiums.

The EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT (including commission to agents and charges of every kind) came to £342,049, or 33.6 per cent. of the premiums.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

ASSURANCE BRANCHES.—During the year 1160 Policies were issued for new assurances, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of £441,950. These new assurances yielded annual premiums amounting to £16,166, and single premiums amounting to £1540.

The TOTAL INCOME of the year from premiums was £269,691, and from interest £123,682.

The CLAIMS amounted to £251,609.

The EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT (including commission) were limited, in the Life Accounts to 10 per cent., and in the Endowment Account to 5 per cent. of the premiums received.

ANNUITY BRANCH.—The sum of £67,793 was received for annuities granted during the year.

The whole FUNDS of the Life Department now amount to £4,249,070.

The report having been unanimously adopted, it was resolved that the total amount to be distributed amongst the shareholders for the year 1903 be £90,000 (being dividend of £2 10s. per share, and bonus of 10s. per share), in addition to £6000, the instalment of 4s. per share now due of the Shareholders' Life Bonus 1901-3.

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Jos. FOWLER, Foreign Superintendent.

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Copies of the report, with the whole accounts of the Company for the year 1903, may be obtained from any of the Company's offices or agencies.

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The Society also makes large grants periodically from its General Fund in times of emergency, and is the only Institution of the kind which gives immediate assistance to the Clergy, their Widows, and Orphan Daughters in all parts of the Empire. At each fortnightly Meeting of the Committee some hundreds of pounds are distributed in this way.

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Aurora West United Gold Mining Company, Limited

Abridged report of the Directors for the year ended December 31, 1903, submitted to shareholders at a General Meeting held in Johannesburg on April 28, 1904

GENTLEMEN,

Your Directors beg to submit their report on the affairs of the Company for the year ended December 31, 1903, together with the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account at that date.

CAPITAL.—The Capital is unaltered and consists of £250,000 in shares of £1 each all issued and fully paid.

PROPERTY.—The property consists of an area including water-rights and bewaarplatsen equivalent to 188.3 claims, of which 124.4 are situated on the reef, and 63.8 north of the outcrop. The mine being worked is 116 claims in extent.

FINANCIAL.—During the year the expenditure on maintenance, administration and licences and including interest on the debt has amounted to £11,970. The financial position at the date the accounts were made up was as follows: Liabilities, £83,732; Liquid Assets, £3157, or an excess of liabilities over liquid assets of £80,575.

The General Mining and Finance Corporation, Limited, continues to advance the necessary funds for the upkeep of the property and for meeting other current expenditure. As soon as favourable market conditions prevail it is the intention of the Directors to formulate and submit to shareholders a scheme for liquidating the existing indebtedness, and for providing additional Working Capital.

SURFACE EQUIPMENT.—Owing to the impossibility of obtaining unskilled labour it has so far been impracticable to proceed with the reorganisation of the plant to enable crushing to be restarted. In spite, however, of this difficulty certain useful work has been performed both on the surface and below ground. As soon as labour conditions permit, an additional twenty stamps, which were ordered prior to the war, will be erected, making the mill one of sixty stamps. This will necessitate the enlargement of the cyanide plant, and a slimes plant will also be added.

ESTIMATE OF FUTURE YIELD.—The Consulting Engineer, in a report which has already been communicated to shareholders, estimates that with sixty stamps in operation the yield will average about 30s. per ton, giving a profit of 10s. per ton of ore treated. This is irrespective of any profit which may be secured from the slimes. The estimate of 28s. for working expenses will probably be decreased in practice, more especially when normal conditions return, and a plentiful supply of unskilled labour is available.

LEOPOLD ALBU, Acting Chairman.

A. J. SHARWOOD } Directors.
A. EPLER }

Johannesburg, January 1, 1904.

Dr.	BALANCE SHEET AT DECEMBER 31, 1903.		Cr.		
To Capital Account, 250,000 Shares at £1 each	£250,000	0 0	By Property Account	£124,486	0 2
„ Temporary Loans and Interest to date	82,850	7 4	„ Permanent Works, Shafts	8,938	10 5
„ Sundry editors	882	8 7	„ Mine Development	53,591	10 5
			„ Machinery and Plant	92,098	11 6
			„ Machinery in Transit	171	10 5
			„ Buildings	17,996	10 7
			„ Reservoirs and Dams	7,576	11 1
			„ Farm	34	11 0
			„ Stores	1,974	18 0
			„ Furniture	475	19 6
			„ Transvaal Government		
			Commandeered Stores	£1,291	0 4
			Commandeered Gold	183	15 0
				<hr/>	
				1,474	15 4
			„ W.N.L.A. Shares, 240 at 12s.	144	0 0
			„ Sundry Debtors	447	13 2
			„ Cash Account	590	13 8
			„ Profit and Loss Account	23,731	0 8
				<hr/>	
				£333,732	15 11
	<hr/>	£333,732 15 11			

J. V. BLINKHORN, Secretary.
(Incorporated Accountant).

We hereby certify that we have examined the Books and Accounts of the Aurora West United Gold Mining Company, Limited, for the period from January 1, 1903, to December 31, 1903, and compared the same with the Vouchers and Bank Book, and that the above statement is correct and contains the particulars required by the Articles of Association, properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct statement of the Company's affairs.

Johannesburg, March 22, 1904.

L. ALBU, Acting Chairman.
A. J. SHARWOOD, Director.

J. FRASER } Auditors.
HENRY HAINS }
(Incorporated Accountants.)

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
To Head Office Expenditure—		By Rents, &c.	
Salaries and Fees	£1,082 0 0	„ Balance Carried Down	£142 0 0
Directors' Remuneration	73 10 0		11,828 2 11
Legal Expenses	15 5 6		
Sundries	374 17 1		
	<u>£1,545 12 7</u>		
„ Licences	434 15 0		
„ Insurances	252 11 11		
„ Interest	4,420 11 10		
„ London Office Expenditure	714 4 3		
„ Berlin „ „	64 3 4		
„ Paris „ „	96 11 3		
„ Maintenance	4,441 12 9		
	<u>£11,970 2 11</u>		<u>£11,970 2 11</u>
„ Balance Brought Down	£11,828 2 11	„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet	£23,731 0 8
„ Balance, December 31, 1902	11,902 17 9		
	<u>£23,731 0 8</u>		<u>£23,731 0 8</u>

J. V. BLINKHORN, Secretary.
(Incorporated Accountant).

Johannesburg,
March 22, 1904.

798

Examined and found correct.

L. ALBU, Acting Chairman.
A. J. SHARWOOD, Director.
J. FRASER } Auditors.
HENRY HAINS }
(Incorporated Accountants.)

BURBANK'S BIRTHDAY GIFT.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the Burbanks Birthday Gift Gold Mines, Limited, was held on June 15, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. J. C. Jesson (Chairman of the Company).

The Secretary (Mr. H. C. Hadfield) having read the notice convening the meeting and the Auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts for the year ended December 31 last, said the directors regretted a loss of £7178 10s. 2d. was shown for the period under review. Under Messrs. Bewick Moreing and Co.'s management vigorous development work had been undertaken. He quoted from their report to the effect that the mine was working at a loss, but that there were lodes of ore in the upper levels, which will yield a profit when the working expenses are reduced. The report says:—"It is necessary to provide funds with which to exploit the mine in depth. We consider that the Company should have available a sum of at least £30,000 with which to undertake this work, especially as the mill will need to be modernised after provision of an ore supply."

The Chairman, having explained that an amount of gold valued at £507,000 had been extracted from the mine, and that £86,000 had been distributed in dividends, read a report from Prof. Nicholson, Consulting Engineer, who said:—"Your mine, to a large extent, is now fully equipped with plant and machinery. Fresh water is available from a permanent supply all the year round. Mining can now be conducted much more cheaply than it could be during the past decade, consequently a greater proportion of profits can be made in the future than in the past. You have a very large area of ground on the main line of reef to the south that has never been prospected (as well as to the north of the mine proper), even on the surface, by costean or cross trenches. The rich zones through which you have passed have yielded over £500,000 worth of gold, and I firmly believe, from my most extensive experience in the Burbanks district, and on all the chief goldfields of Australia, that other similarly rich zones in gold occur at greater depth in the Burbanks Birthday Gold Mine." A Committee appointed, "to consult with the directors as to the reconstruction or otherwise, and the terms upon which the reconstruction, if decided on, should be carried out," approved of an assessment of 4s. per share. Should all the shares be taken up, this assessment would give £36,000, which, after paying all the liabilities of the old Company and allowing for the underwriting commission, should leave the £30,000 required. A contract has been entered into with the Share Guarantee Trust, Limited, to guarantee the sum of £33,000. If this underwriting was agreed to, it will become necessary to register the new company in Western Australia, as the present Act of 1900 does not permit of a commission being paid for underwriting partly-paid shares that are not offered for subscription to the public.

The motion for the adoption of the report and balance sheet, seconded by Mr. J. E. Burbank, was carried unanimously.

The various resolutions necessary to give effect to the recommendation of the Committee were then put and carried, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

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THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE JOURNAL,

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FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the INTEREST due on July 1, 1904, will be paid against presentation of COUPON No. 15.

IN LONDON.—At the Offices of the Company, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.

IN JOHANNESBURG.—At the Offices of the Company, Exploration Buildings. COUPONS to be left FOUR CLEAR DAYS for examination, and to be presented at the London Office any day (SATURDAYS EXCEPTED) on or after FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1904, between the hours of ELEVEN and TWO.

Listing Forms may be had on application.

By Order, ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office: No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C., June 16, 1904.

BONANZA, LIMITED.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 11.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND of 40 per cent. (8s. per share) has been declared by the Board for the Half-year ending June 30, 1904.

This Dividend will be payable to all Shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on June 30, 1904, and to holders of COUPON No. 11 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

The Transfer Books will be closed from July 1 to 7, 1904, both days inclusive. The Dividend will be payable to South African registered Shareholders from the Head Office, Johannesburg, and to European Shareholders from the London Office, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C., on or about August 4, 1904.

Holders of SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER are informed that they will receive payment of the Dividend on presentation of COUPON No. 11 either at the Head Office of the Company, Johannesburg, or at the London Office. COUPONS must be left FOUR CLEAR DAYS for examination, and will be payable at any time on or after AUGUST 4, 1904.

By Order of the Board, ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office: No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C., June 14, 1904.

LANGLAAGTE DEEP, LIMITED.

FROM THE DIRECTORS' QUARTERLY REPORT.

Total Yield in Fine Gold from all sources . . . 17,663.481 ozs.
Total Yield in Fine Gold per ton on tonnage milled basis . . . 6.456 dwts.

WORKING EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

Dr.	Cost.	Cost per Ton Milled.
To Mining Expenses	£38,607 13 9	£0 14 8.784
„ Milling Expenses	3,741 17 1	0 3 1.340
„ Cyaniding Expenses	4,040 19 8	0 1 10.247
„ General Expenses	3,079 10 11	0 1 1.590
„ Head Office Expenses	1,732 18 8	0 0 7.647
	£54,203 0 1	0 19 11.611
„ Working Profit	19,992 0 8	0 7 4.230
	£74,283 0 9	1 7 3.849

Cr.	Value.	Value per Ton Milled.
By Gold Account	£74,283 0 9	£1 7 3.849
To Interest		£4,004 14 8
„ Net Profit		15,987 6 6
		£19,992 0 8
By Balance Working Profit brought down		£19,992 0 8

NOTE.—The 10 per cent. Tax on Profits which has been imposed by the Government of the Transvaal has not been allowed for in the above figures.
The Capital Expenditure for the quarter has amounted to £958 15s. 9d.

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